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Weekend



NASA unveiled findings about the northern lights.

Lights Insight: Researchers unravel mystery of auroras | **3**

Small Ideas: Ford banks its future on downsized models | **13**



West Times: Campbell feels comfortable in new offense | **15**

ENTERTAINMENT

Mulder's Move: David Duchovny stars in a big-screen 'X-Files.' Also, open wide for Shark Week.

>> **20-30**



In Germany, Obama Calls for Unity

BIG IN BERLIN: Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama delivers a foreign policy speech before a crowd of more than 200,000 people at Berlin's Victory Column on Thursday. Obama called for renewed trans-Atlantic cooperation to rein in Iran, to fight religious extremism and terrorism, and to tackle global warming and poverty. • **Crowd-pleaser:** Obama is greeted with adoration | **Page 9**

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IOC Bars Iraq From Olympics

Political dispute in Baghdad leads to the team's exclusion

BAGHDAD | Just two weeks before the start of the Olympics, Iraq was told Thursday it's not welcome in Beijing because of a political feud in Baghdad that angered the games' guardians and exiled a country that arrived to a roaring ovation at the opening ceremony four years ago.

The International Olympic Committee told Iraqi sports officials in a letter that it would uphold its ban imposed in June after the government in Baghdad replaced its national Olympic panel with members not recognized by the IOC.



Davies

The IOC called the move an unacceptable government interference.

In Iraq, it also smacked of the lingering sectarian bitterness between the new Shiite power brokers and the Sunnis who were once favored under Saddam Hussein — whose son, Odai, ran the nation's Olympic committee as a personal fiefdom.

"We are very disappointed that the athletes have been so ill-served by their own government's actions," said IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies.

But Davies suggested there was still a possibility for last-ditch talks to salvage Iraq's place before the games open on Aug. 8.

This year, at least seven Iraqi athletes were expected to compete in Beijing.

BRIAN MURPHY (AP)



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SUNDAY
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TODAY: Dry with mostly sunny skies and warmer temperatures | **42**

eyeOpeners

PETS

Despite Dumb Name, Animal Saves Family

A pet rabbit is credited with saving a couple from a fire that swept through their home in Melbourne, Australia. Metropolitan Fire Brigade commander Mick Swift said the husband returned home from a night shift early Thursday. Half an hour after he had gone to bed, he heard the family pet, named "Rabbit," scratching at the couple's bedroom door. Swift said the husband, whose identity has not been released, discovered a fire in a back room and smoke spreading quickly through the house. He was able to escape the house with his wife unharmed. Swift said the rabbit saved the couple from injury. (AP)



JUDGES

Despite Dumb Name, Judge Saves Family

A family court judge in New Zealand has had enough with parents' giving their children bizarre names. So, he did something about it. Just ask Talula Does the Hula From Hawaii. He had her renamed. Judge Rob Murfitt made the 9-year-old girl a ward of the court so that her name could be changed. The new name was not made public, to protect the girl's privacy. "The court is profoundly concerned about the very poor judgment which this child's parents have shown in choosing this name," he wrote.

"It makes a fool of the child and sets her up with a social disability and handicap, unnecessarily." (AP)



ZIRILLI/AP/GETTY IMAGES

RECORDS

H2O Yeah

Claudia Pettazzoni and Fidel Rios kiss to win the IKE, the international underwater kissing contest in Riccione, Italy. The couple won the title of world's longest underwater kiss with a time of 1 minutes, 51 seconds. (EXPRESS)



PICKUPS

Man Snags Hot Chick

Picking up hitchhikers can be risky, but this one in northeast Pennsylvania was a bird of a different feather. Jerry Dimick and a friend were driving along Route 307 Wednesday when they spotted a peacock standing by the edge of the road. Dimick said he stopped and "went 'smooch, smooch, smooch, smooch,' and the bird came over," so he "reached out and grabbed him." He said, "The bird was sitting in between the two of us. He sat there." Dimick took the bird to his home in Taylor and is trying to find it a safe place to live. (AP)

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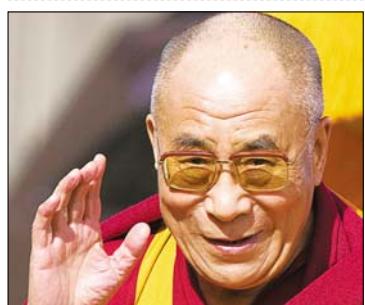


STAMP FEAT: More letters, cards, payments and other first-class mail items are getting to their destinations on time than ever before, the Postal Service said Thursday. National on-time performance scores for the delivery of first-class mail hit all-time highs in April, May and June.

Nation

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DAILY DIARY | WASHINGTONPOST.COM



MICHAEL GASH/AP

SUMMIT

Meeting With McCain

Sen. John McCain will have his own international summit—of a sort—Friday when he meets with exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama.

"It came up because we arranged the meeting, mutually agreed to a meeting," McCain said Thursday in Columbus, Ohio. "I have been a great admirer of the Dalai Lama, and I look forward to the opportunity of meeting an individual who is a transcendent international role model and hero, and I have admired him and respected him for the efforts he's made on behalf of freedom of the people of Tibet but also all over the world."

McCain, as is with many American politicians, has been a strong critic of China's crackdown on human rights in Tibet and suggested that President Bush consider boycotting the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics next month. ROBERT BARNES

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For extended analysis and up-to-the-minute coverage from the presidential campaign, visit blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail

Mystery of Northern Lights Solved

NASA: Geomagnetic storms seem to cause dramatic movements

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. | Scientists have exposed some of the mystery behind the northern lights.

On Thursday, NASA released findings that indicate magnetic explosions about one-third of the way to the moon cause the northern lights, or aurora borealis, to burst in spectacular shapes and colors, and dance across the sky.

The findings should help scientists better understand the more powerful but less common geomagnetic storms that can knock out satellites, harm astronauts in orbit and disrupt power and communications on Earth, scientists said.

A fleet of five small satellites, called Themis, observed the beginning of a geomagnetic storm in February, while ground observatories



MICHAEL GASH/AP

A spectator watches the aurora borealis in Alaska. NASA released findings on Thursday that indicate magnetic explosions cause the northern lights to occur.

in Canada and Alaska recorded the brightening of the northern lights. The southern lights — aurora australis — also brightened and darted across the sky at the same time.

These auroral flare-ups occur every

two or three days, on average.

A team led by University of California, Los Angeles, scientist Vassilis Angelopoulos confirmed that the observed storm about 80,000 miles from Earth was triggered by a phenomenon known as magnetic reconnection. Every so often, the Earth's magnetic field lines are stretched like rubber bands by solar energy, snap, are thrown back to Earth and reconnect, in effect creating a short circuit.

It's this stored-up energy that powers the northern and southern lights or, in other words, causes them to dance, according to Angelopoulos.

An opposing theory has these geomagnetic events occurring much closer to Earth, about one-sixth of the way to the moon. More Themis observations are needed to resolve the debate, said David Sibeck, NASA's project scientist. MARCIA DUNN (AP)

Study: Girls Close Gap on Math Tests

Gender differences in scores no longer exist at any grade level

WASHINGTON | Sixteen years after Barbie dolls declared, "Math class is tough!" girls are proving that when it comes to math, they are just as tough as boys.

In the largest study of its kind,

LEARNING CURVE

→ The stereotype that boys are better at math has been fueled, in part, by suggestions of biological differences in learning. The idea is hotly disputed.
→ Women are now earning 48 percent of the undergraduate college degrees in math.

girls measured up to boys in every grade, from second through 11th. The research was released Thursday in the journal *Science*.

Parents and teachers persist in thinking boys are simply better at math, said Janet Hyde, the University of Wisconsin-Madison researcher who led the study.

Hyde and her colleagues looked at annual math tests required by

the No Child Left Behind education law in 2002. Ten states provided enough statistical information to review test scores by gender, allowing researchers to compare the performances of more than 7 million children.

The researchers found no difference in the scores of boys versus girls — not even in high school. Studies 20 years ago showed girls and boys did equally well on math in elementary school, but girls fell behind in high school. (AP)



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BUBBLE TROUBLE: The bubble may have burst for off-Broadway's "Gazillion Bubbles Show" in New York City. The show's specialized soapy bubble solution, which takes two months to make, was stolen in a recent break-in.

Okla. Steeple Raising Ends Tragically

Crane holding church structure falls, killing 79-year-old onlooker

OKLAHOMA CITY | Church members watching the steeple being raised on their new building looked on in horror Thursday as a crane holding the structure toppled, crushing a car and killing an 79-year-old man who had been watching from inside the vehicle, firefighters said.

The man's 78-year-old wife, who was also in the car, was transported to a hospital and was in good condition, ambulance officials said.

A group of people had gathered in southwest Oklahoma City to watch the installation of the steeple when the crane collapsed in the parking lot, said Deputy Fire Chief Cecil Clay.



A firefighter examines an accident site Thursday in Oklahoma City where a crane holding a church steeple collapsed, crushing a car and killing a man inside the car. AP

Grace Assembly of God Pastor Joe Hancock said the couple were longtime church members.

"Just great people," he said. "It's just a huge loss."

Hancock said he was taking

photos from the back of the church when he realized something had gone wrong. The crane started to tip when the steeple was about 10 feet off the ground, he said.

Caleb Fellenstein, the church's youth minister, said the crane started to lower the steeple just before the accident.

"And then it just quickened," he said. "The whole boom and the crane just flipped over. It was like a movie. It was like something unreal."

"I was just standing there in disbelief and panic."

There have been several deadly crane accidents across the country this year, including one in Houston last week that killed four workers and injured seven others. Crane-related deaths have also occurred in New York, Miami and Las Vegas.

SEAN MURPHY (AP)

California OKs Tough Ship Rules

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. | California air regulators on Thursday approved the toughest rules in the nation to reduce emissions from ocean-going ships headed into the state's ports.

The regulations require domestic and foreign cargo ships, tankers and cruise vessels sailing into California to use cleaner fuel to power their engines and boilers. International shipping companies oppose the rules. They say the state has no jurisdiction to regulate their operations outside the state's coast. (AP)



YOUR CALL: Nearly two of three Democrats say the New Yorker should not have run a satirical cover about Sen. Barack Obama, roughly the same number of Republicans who think it was OK, according to a Pew Research poll. (AP)

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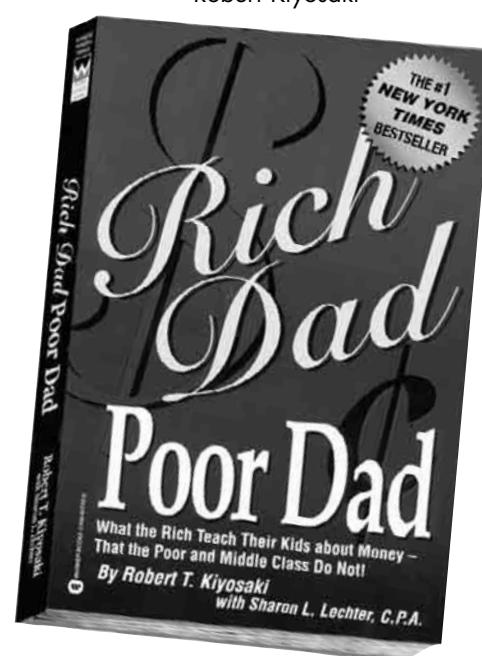
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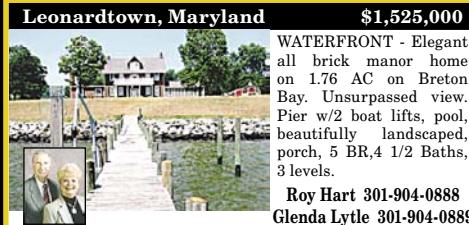


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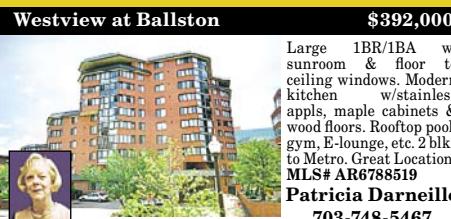
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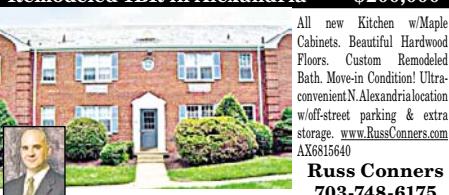
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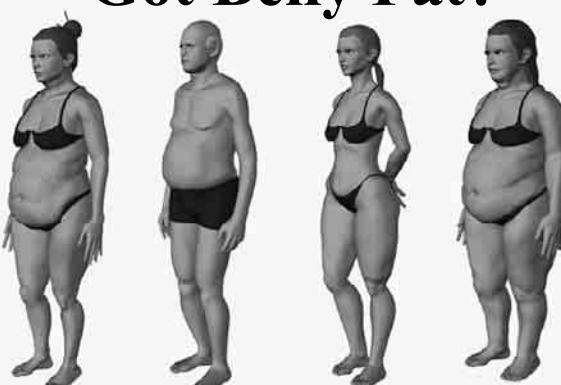


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The amount of time, in months, it would take to exhaust the supply of homes for sale in the United States at the current sales rate, the National Association of Realtors said.

Stocks Fall on Dour News

Dow drops more than 280 points on sharp decline in home sales

NEW YORK | Wall Street abruptly ended an earnings-driven rally and closed sharply lower Thursday after a steeper-than-expected decline in existing home sales and worries about the financial sector chilled the market's recent optimism. The major indexes fell about 2 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which lost more than 280 points.

The National Association of Realtors said sales resumed their decline in June after a slight rebound in May. Existing-home sales declined by 2.6 percent in June, well beyond the 1 percent drop economists had forecast.



A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday.

Investors punished shares of home builders and financial companies Thursday because both sectors have struggled.

Alan Lancz, director at invest-

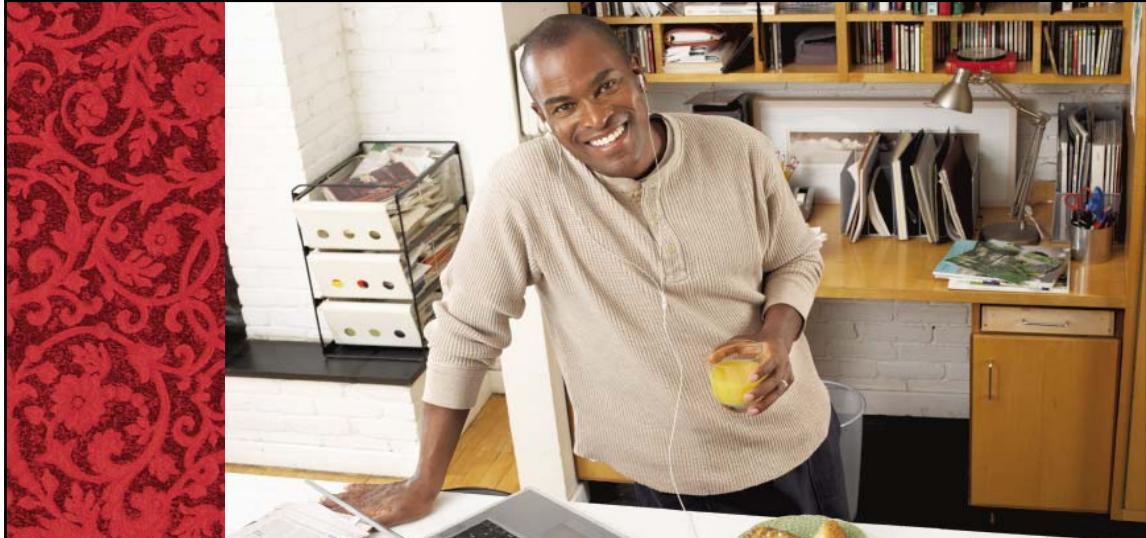
ment research group LanczGlobal, said investors are concluding that while financials had been oversold in recent weeks and were due for a rebound, problems remain with tight credit and mortgage debt.

"You have the rally, and you almost get the hangover now where you say, 'You know, we're not out of the woods yet,'" he said.

The Dow fell 283.10, or 2.43 percent, to 11,349.28. It was the biggest decline for the Dow since June 26.

The pullback erased the nearly 170 points added in the two prior sessions. Last week, the Dow gained nearly 400 points. While some declines after the latest rally wouldn't have come as a surprise, the drop Thursday revealed fresh unease about the economy.

TIM PARADIS (AP)



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Noreen PWERLE Wild Orange Dreaming 1988 batik on silk The Holmes à Court Collection, Heytesbury © Noreen Pwerle licensed by Aboriginal Artists Agency 2008

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Nation

2

The number of poll workers, in millions, the federal Election Assistance Commission is hoping to recruit to help handle what could be a record turnout for a presidential election in November.

Feds: Utah Mine Broke Safety Rules

Official says collapse that killed 6 was not caused by earthquake

PRICE, UTAH | The operator of a collapsed Utah mine violated safety protocols by cutting coal pillars that should have been left standing to prevent cave-ins, federal regulators said Thursday.

The officials said a subsidiary of Ohio-based Murray Energy Corp. undermined other pillars by excavating coal from tunnel floors. They also faulted the company's engineering firm, Agapito Associates Inc. of Grand Junction, Colo., for

conducting a flawed evaluation of mining dangers.

Murray Energy chief Bob Murray has insisted that taking down the pillars, a practice called retreat mining, had nothing to do with the collapse. He argued from the start that it was caused by an earthquake.



Stickler

MSHA chief Richard Stickler disputed that Thursday, instead blaming poor engineering.

"First of all, it was not — and I'll repeat not — a natural-occur-

ring earthquake, but in fact it was a catastrophic outburst of the coal pillars that were used to support the ground above the coal seam," Stickler said.

The agency is fining Murray Energy \$1.6 million and Agapito \$220,000 for the disaster, he said.

The Aug. 6 collapse trapped six miners, whose bodies haven't been recovered. Three others were killed during a rescue attempt.

MSHA said Murray Energy misled regulators about the dangers and violated its approved mining plan. The company said it was preparing a response. (AP)

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NO JOKE: Staff at Sweden's Bromma airport were not amused when a team from a TV comedy show tried to check in a suitcase with a dwarf inside on Wednesday; they called the police. The stunt was filmed for a program on the private TV network Kanal 5.

World



U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama shakes hands with Germans in Berlin on Thursday after speaking in front of more than 200,000 at the city's Victory Column.

Germans Flock to Obama

Candidate tells crowd of 200,000 to break down 'walls' in Berlin

BERLIN | If only they could vote.

Before the largest crowd of his campaign, 4,000 miles from the United States, Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama on Thursday summoned Europeans and Americans together to "defeat terror and dry up the well of extremism that supports it" as

surely as they conquered communism a generation ago.

Obama said he was speaking as a citizen, not as a president, but the evening was awash in politics as the first-term U.S. senator sought to burnish his international credentials for the fall campaign at home. His remarks before a crowd estimated at more than 200,000 inevitably invited comparison to historic speeches in the same city by Presidents Kennedy and Reagan.

Obama borrowed rhetoric from

his own appeals to campaign audiences this year in the likes of Berlin, N.H., as he spoke in one of the great cities of Europe.

"People of Berlin, people of the world, this is our moment. This is our time," he declared.

"The walls between old allies on either side of the Atlantic cannot stand," Obama said, speaking in front of Berlin's Victory Column, not far from where the Berlin Wall once divided the city.

"The walls between the countries

with the most and those with the least cannot stand. The walls between races and tribes, natives and immigrants, Christians and Muslims and Jews cannot stand," he said.

Obama's speech was the centerpiece of a fast-paced tour through Europe designed to reassure skeptical voters in the United States about his ability to lead the country and take a frayed cross-Atlantic alliance in a new direction.

Obama met earlier in the day with German Chancellor Angela Merkel for a discussion that ranged from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to climate change. DAVID ESPO AND DAVID RISING (AP)

Iran to End Help With U.N. Probe

VIENNA | Iran signaled Thursday that it will no longer cooperate with U.N. experts probing for signs of clandestine nuclear weapons work, confirming the investigation is at a dead end a year after it began.

The announcement from Iranian Vice President Gholam Reza Aghazadeh compounded skepticism about denting Tehran's nuclear defiance, just five days after Tehran stonewalled demands from six world powers that it halt activities capable of producing the fissile core of warheads. (AP)

Report: Media Aid Taliban's Spread

Crisis group: Islamist militia uses range of media to project power

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | Using everything from Internet postings to poetry, the Taliban have created a sophisticated media network that undermines support for the Afghan government by projecting the militia's power as greater than it really is, a new report says.

The report Thursday by the International Crisis Group comes as the Islamist militia that was oust-

COMMUNICATIONS STUDY

The report says the Taliban spread messages through both traditional and modern means:

- Cell phone text messages
- The Taliban Web site, Al Emarah, or The Emirate
- Pamphlets and magazines
- DVDs and audio cassettes
- "Night letters," a traditional means of communicating (AP)

ed from power in Afghanistan by a 2001 U.S.-led invasion is making a violent comeback.

The report says the Taliban's propaganda exploits themes like civilian killings by foreign forces, and corruption in the U.S.-backed government to add to Afghans' disillusionment about their lives.

"The movement uses communications as a force multiplier and is quick to claim actions even when the facts are not established in a bid to appear all-powerful," the report says. "It further understands that even implied threats and grandiose rhetoric can impact the population's perceptions and calculations." NAHAL TOOSI (AP)

Israel OKs West Bank Settlement

Palestinians say plans for new Jewish homes threaten peace efforts

JERUSALEM | A key committee has approved construction of the first new Jewish settlement in the West Bank in a decade, an Israeli official said Thursday. The news infuriated Palestinians, who said the decision could cripple peace efforts.

The only hurdle that remains is Defense Minister Ehud Barak, who plans to approve the Ma'aleh Adumim settlement within weeks, the official said. Barak had signaled to the national planning committee that it should authorize the plan, the official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the Defense Ministry did not officially announce the settlement would be built in the Jordan Valley Rift, an arid north-south strip that forms Israel's eastern flank with Jordan.

When asked why Israel was moving ahead with the plan, the official said that it has been envisioned for years.

Israel originally announced in 2006 that it would build Ma'aleh Adumim, then froze the plan after international outcry. LAURIE COPANS (AP)

MEXICO | HOT SEAT



RONALDO SCHEMIDT/AFPI/GETTY IMAGES

DON'T LOOK UP: A man sits on a bench that's attached to a sculpture in the "Benches Dialogue" art exhibition in Mexico City, Mexico, on Thursday.

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World



Policemen patrol near the building where Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic is currently being held, in Belgrade, Serbia, on Thursday.

In Serbia, Signs Of Shifting Goals

Reaction to genocide suspect's arrest reveals Serbs' EU ambitions

BELGRADE, SERBIA | There were some small protests and brief flashes of rhetoric from hardline nationalists, but the arrest of war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic this week revealed a Serbia that is increasingly tired of its brutal past and intent on joining the European Union, a beacon of prosperity for most European countries that remain outside its borders.

The passion and anger that drew 100,000 people onto the streets of Belgrade when Kosovo declared independence in February, and led extremists to attack and set fire to the U.S. Embassy, was all but absent for Karadzic.

On Thursday came another sign of the changing heart in Belgrade: Serbian ambassadors who were called home to protest the February declaration of independence by Kosovo, a

province of Serbia, will return to their posts, the government said.

Karadzic, a longtime fugitive who is charged with genocide by a U.N. tribunal sitting in The Hague, had been described as a "wartime hero" for Serb irredentists. But his capture generated more titillation about his appearance, quack medical practice and alleged mistress than any outrage over his likely handover to an international court for his role in the 1992-95 war in Bosnia.

"Nobody cares anymore about Karadzic or Mladic," said Zoran Dragicic, a professor of security studies at Belgrade University, referring also to Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb general who is now the most infamous suspect from the Bosnian war still at large.

"People want to move on and fix all the damage from the past. There is a very strong wish to become a new member of the EU, and people see it as a pre-condition for economic development." **PETER FINN**
(THE WASHINGTON POST)

Suicide Blast Kills 8 Sunnis in Iraq

BAGHDAD | A female suicide bomber blew herself up as she approached U.S.-allied Sunni fighters walking in a crowded area north of Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least eight members of the group and wounding 24 other people, police said.

The attack in Baqouba comes

as the U.S.-backed Iraqi military prepares to expand operations in Diyala province, of which Baqouba is the capital.

The woman, who wore a black Islamic robe, detonated her explosives near a group of awakening council guards, a police officer said. (AP)

The actual age of Clifford Liljenquist, a homeless man, who syndicated columnist Robert Novak struck with his car Wednesday. Police initially reported Liljenquist's age as 66. Novak was issued a \$50 traffic citation.

Columbus Circle May See Overhaul

Renovation to plaza would improve access to D.C.'s Union Station

D.C. officials are planning to renovate the plaza in front of Union Station, the first in a planned series of major changes to the 101-year-old railroad facility.

The plaza project, led by the D.C. Department of Transportation and involving several federal agencies, will eliminate a fishhook-shaped road that cuts through Columbus Plaza. The change will restore the plaza to its earlier appearance and make it easier for pedestrians to reach the station from the Capitol and other areas, officials said.

The idea is to have the space "be



Pedestrians walk across Columbus Circle in front of Union Station in the District July 16. A major overhaul is planned to make the area more pedestrian-friendly.

more about a plaza and less about trying to walk across nine lines of vehicle traffic," said Thomas Lueb-

ke, secretary of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, a federal agency that has a voice in the physical

development of the District.

The plaza project is part of city officials' plan to make Union Station more efficient and user-friendly for tourists and people traveling to the rapidly developing surrounding neighborhoods.

Talks are also under way about the possibility of moving the Greyhound Lines bus service from First Street NE to Union Station. A facility to store and rent bicycles is scheduled to be built soon on the west side of the station.

The plaza renovation needs final approval from the arts commission and the National Capital Planning Commission. D.C. officials said they hope to start in the fall. Luebke said he is optimistic the plan will get the green light. MARY BETH SHERIDAN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Woman Charged in D.C. Tax Scam

WASHINGTON | A real estate agent from Prince George's County has been charged in a scheme that prosecutors believe defrauded the D.C. tax office out of nearly \$50 million.

Fifty-two-year-old Alethia Grooms of Clinton was charged in federal court Thursday with possession of stolen property and money laundering. She was charged in a

"criminal information," a document that can be filed only with the defendant's consent and usually signals a plea deal is near.

According to court documents, Grooms became friends with the scheme's alleged ringleader, Harriette Walters, in the 1980s while both were taking classes at the University of the District of Columbia. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, July 24

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	9-4-2
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	7-6-0
Mid-day DC 4	0-5-5-5
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	5-3-5-0
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	9-18-27-28-32
Daily 6 (Wed.)	1-9-19-26-31-37 Bonus: 28
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	15-27-32-35-36 (I)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	0-3-2
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	7-5-1
Mid-day Pick 4	3-2-8-4
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	7-8-2-1
Match 5 (Wed.)	8-9-14-16-36 Bonus: 27
Lotto (Wed.)	8-15-20-27-28-33

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	0-9-6
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	0-0-1
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	1-4-3-4

Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	8-4-5-6
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	11-15-22-25-33
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	8-17-19-27-33
Win for Life (Wed.)	2-14-17-23-31-37

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LEGAL MOVE: T-R-O-U-B-L-E could loom for a Scrabble knockoff that has become one of the most popular activities on Facebook. Hasbro, which owns the word game's North American rights, has sued the creators of Scrabulous, claiming copyright and trademark violations.

Money

Ford Looks to Europe for Answers

Automaker to bring 6 fuel-efficient cars to the United States

DEARBORN, MICH. | Bleeding cash and with its very survival uncertain, Ford Motor Co., an icon of American automaking, will try to import some of its success from across the Atlantic.

Ford reported its worst-ever quarterly loss Thursday and announced plans to bring over six small, fuel-efficient cars it makes in Europe and start selling them in North America, where Ford is losing billions on its truck-heavy lineup.

The company burned through nearly \$11 billion of its cash stockpile in the past year and reported a second-quarter loss of \$8.7 billion.

Ford is trying to save itself by



FORD MOTOR CO./AP FILE

The Ford Transit Connect vehicle, above, is one of six fuel-efficient vehicles the struggling auto company plans to bring to the United States for the first time.

quickly morphing from a truck company into a car company. But the help from Europe won't arrive

until 2010: It takes time to retool U.S. plants, and importing the cars directly is too costly.

Industry watchers wonder whether Ford has enough cash to survive until then.

"You have the gap before the plan can be fully executed," said Jeff Schuster, executive director of global forecasting for J.D. Power and Associates.

Ford has successfully sold cars in Europe for years, and it made billions of dollars selling trucks to Americans. But U.S. drivers have recoiled this year from high gas prices and bolted for smaller cars.

Past efforts by U.S. automakers to bring in European cars have flopped, but Ford CEO Alan Mulally said the U.S. market is vastly different today.

"They want the vehicles to be neat and have a lot of features," Mulally said. (AP)

Approval of XM, Sirius Merger Seems Imminent

WASHINGTON | Approval of a merger of the nation's only two satellite radio companies was imminent Thursday after the pair agreed to pay \$19.7 million to settle charges they violated federal rules.

Sirius Satellite Radio Inc.'s proposed \$3.6 billion buyout of rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. has been before the Federal Communications Commission for 16 months. The five-member commission is deadlocked at 2-2, but Republican Deborah Taylor Tate is expected to cast the deciding vote approving the deal.

"This was an issue that Commissioner Tate thought was important for us to deal with prior to her supporting the merger," FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said Thursday. (AP)

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Sunday in The Washington Post

Talk of Our Town

Local disc jockeys keep D.C.'s airwaves from growing stale

IN SUNDAY SOURCE | It's easy to be a disc jockey, isn't it? You just blab a bit, put on the song your boss tells you to and take the occasional phone call from a clueless listener. Stardom, baby!

We kid, because we love our DJs. And we mean local DJs, not those syndicated yakkers who try to be all things to everyone and end up having nothing to say to anyone (not to mention that their playlists are computer-generated and they don't take requests).

We know that being on the air is demanding work. Getting to the studio by 5 a.m. is a daily grind. And managing to meet the station's "numbers" goals is a terrible burden. But good DJs make us think, make us dance and keep us from driving into the Potomac River on our way to work during morning rush hour or falling asleep on the long slog home in the evening.

We caught up with a few of our favorites who not only entertain us with music — much of it pro-



ON THE DIAL: Bronx, N.Y., native Big Tigger returned to WPGC-FM in April 2007, where he started as an intern, after spending six years in New York's radio market.

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EVENTS

NOVENA TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

OH, MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF MOUNT CARMEL, FRUITFUL VINE, SPLENDOUR OF HEAVEN, BLESSED MOTHER OF SON OF GOD, IMMACULATE VIRGIN, ASSIST ME IN MY NECESSITY. OH, STAR OF THE SEA, HELP ME, SHOW ME HEREIN YOU ARE MY MOTHER. OH, HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, I HUMBLY BESEECH YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART TO SUCCOUR ME IN THIS NECESSITY. THERE ARE NONE THAT CAN WITHSTAND YOUR POWER. OH, SHOW ME HEREIN, YOU ARE MY MOTHER. OH, MARY CONCEIVED WITHOUT ORIGINAL SIN, PRAY FOR US WHO HAVE RECOURSE TO THEE (SAY THIS THREE TIMES). HOLY MOTHER I PLACE THIS CAUSE IN YOUR HANDS (SAY THIS THREE TIMES). HOLY SPIRIT, YOU WHO SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS, LIGHT ALL ROADS SO THAT ALL CAN ATTAIN MY GOAL. YOU WHO GAVE ME THE DIVINE GIFT TO FORGET AND FORGIVE ALL EVIL AGAINST ME AND THAT IN ALL INSTANCES IN MY LIFE ARE WITH ME. I WANT IN THIS SHORT PRAYER TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THINGS AS YOU CONFIRM ONCE AGAIN THAT I NEVER WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU IN ETERNAL GLORY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TOWARD ME AND MINE.

THIS PRAYER IS NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL. THE PERSON MUST SAY THIS PRAYER FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS. AFTER THREE DAYS THE REQUEST WILL BE GRANTED.

grammed by their own tastes, not by a survey — but also create moments of illumination and enlightenment in their discussions of contempo-

for more ...

SUNDAY IN THE SOURCE

Read Buzz McClain's interviews with the local radio personalities who make that tortured daily commute more bearable and a whole lot more entertaining.

IN The Washington Post

rary culture. Or not. We like them anyway.

We chatted with Pedro Biaggi (El Zol, 99.1 FM), Big Tigger (WPGC, 95.5 FM), Jeannie Jones (WKYS, 93.9 FM), Kane (WIHT, 99.5 FM) and Weasel (The Globe, 94.7 FM).

Always wanted to know more about the person behind that voice on the radio? Read our interviews with five vibrant personalities who keep Washington airwaves from sounding like those from Anywhere, USA. **BUZZ MCCLAIN** (SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST)

3 more reasons to read

THESE STORIES AND MORE THIS SUNDAY



→ 'Breakfast Club 2'?

In the documentary "American Teen," Hollywood once again tries to capture the bigger picture of daily life in high school. **STYLE & ARTS**

→ The Light of Day



A new biography chronicles the career of Doris Day, from big-band singer to Hollywood icon. **BOOK WORLD**

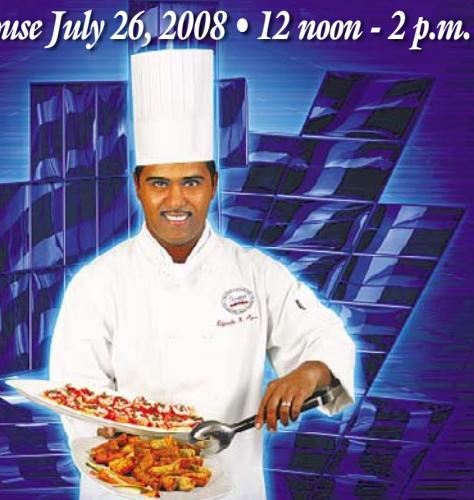
→ Competitive Spirit

Nine local Olympians recall the thrills and agonies of going for the gold. **THE MAGAZINE**

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CYCLING

They think the can ... Why riders in the Tour de France continue to dope is a mystery that gets to the bottom of athletics. | 19

Sports Weekend

Next West Thing

Redskins' top priority this year is learning Zorn's new offense

REDSKINS | They were clunky. They want to be smooth.

Practice pops now. Plays come quick, and completions are prevalent. It's all part of new head coach Jim Zorn's plan to turn quarterback Jason Campbell into Joe Montana — or at least Matt Hasselbeck.

How quickly the Redskins' offense can make that transition will go a long way in repeating last year's playoff appearance. Zorn's version of the West Coast offense should bring a little continuity to a side that was caught in a tug-of-war between progressive offensive guru Al Saunders and old-school, legendary head coach Joe Gibbs the last two seasons.

"[Campbell] is an excellent pupil," Zorn said. "Where he wants to improve is playing in a fluid manner and taking command of the line of scrimmage."

Zorn — a quarterback in Seattle in the 1970s and '80s and then a position coach for the Seahawks and Lions — has an intriguing project in Campbell. The Redskins' fourth-year signal caller has played in seven offenses since his freshman year at Auburn. But he thrived in a West Coast scheme his senior year, helping the Tigers to an undefeated season and winning the SEC Offensive Player of the Year award.

"[Zorn's offense] is a little bit different terminology, but for the most part I have seen most of it before," Campbell said.

The West Coast scheme requires accuracy — something Campbell has improved on but has not yet mastered. If training camp is any indication, his completion num-



Redskins head coach Jim Zorn, right, said teaching QB Jason Campbell his new offense is his biggest task this season. | PRESTON KERSTEN/WP

WHAT IS THE WEST COAST OFFENSE?

The West Coast offense, which has many variations, is a pass-first scheme meant to spread the opponent's defense:

→ The theory is that once the defense is spread, the offense will have open lanes for running plays, gaining yardage after the catch, and the occasional deep strike. The frequency of the short passes means the quarterback often has little room for error when he throws. That's why Washington loaded up on big targets in the draft, taking receivers Devin Thomas, Malcolm Kelly and tight end Fred Davis — all of which are 6-foot-1 or taller. Good pass-catching backs — like the Redskins' Ladell Betts — often thrive in West Coast offenses because of the short passing game.

bers will benefit from the short passes that keep the chains moving. Quick drops and routes have replaced cumbersome two-man patterns. Big targets dot the field

where sub-6-footers like Santana Moss and Antwaan Randle El were the only options a year ago.

Zorn helped turn Hasselbeck into a three-time Pro Bowler who has

thrown 20-plus touchdown passes in five of his last six seasons.

With the implementation of goal line packages midweek, the Redskins' offense now has now been through the full playbook. Saturday's scrimmage (scheduled for 2 p.m. at Redskins Park and free to the public) will be the first time they get to run the offense in a true game simulation.

"When you've got a head coach that's played the position before, it makes a difference," Campbell said. "If you make mistakes, make them going full-speed. That's how you create things, by just going out there and playing." | ERIC BRANDNER

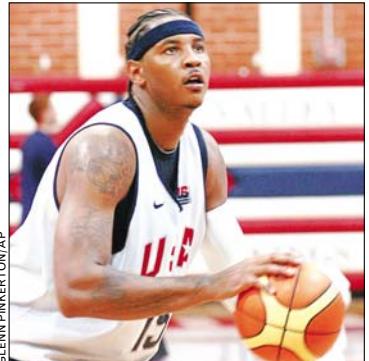
GOLF | Get Back on Course

The son of former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani is suing Duke University, claiming he was wrongfully kicked off the golf team. Andrew Giuliani claims he was dismissed without cause from the golf team earlier this year because coach O.D. Vincent III want-



ed to cut the team of 13 players by about half. The lawsuit claims the coach has interfered with Giuliani's efforts toward becoming a professional golfer. Duke University spokesman Keith Lawrence said Thursday the university was discussing the lawsuit but didn't have an immediate comment. | AP

TV Lineup



Carmelo Anthony and the U.S. basketball team play Canada on Friday night. | GLENN PINKERTON/AP

friday

7 P.M. Roger Federer was knocked out in the second round, but Andy Roddick and Rafael Nadal may still be playing in the quarterfinals of the Rogers Cup. ESPN2

7 P.M. The Baltimore Orioles hope to climb out of the cellar of the AL East when they host the L.A. Angels. MASN

8 P.M. The U.S. men's basketball team's quest to avenge 2004's third-place finish at the Olympics begins Friday with an exhibition against Canada. ESPN

saturday

8 A.M. The Tour de France will be won and lost on Saturday in the final time trial before Sunday's victory lap through Paris. ESPN

3:55 P.M. The Tampa Bay Rays have lost six of their last 10 games, and all seems right again in the AL East as the Red Sox and Yankees square off at Fenway. FOX

10 P.M. Odalis Perez is scheduled to face his former team when the Nationals face the Dodgers in Los Angeles. MASN2

sunday

2 P.M. There's nothing quite like NASCAR at the Brickyard when the Allstate 400 comes to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. ESPN

3 P.M. The Philadelphia Soul faces the San Jose Sabercats in ArenaBowl XXII. ABC

8 P.M. The Yankees, winners of six straight as of July 24, face the rival Red Sox in Boston. ESPN



Informational Seminar

The Department of Homeland Security invites you to its E-Verify Informational Seminar – a half-day information session. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the E-Verify program and its proper use. A live demonstration of the E-Verify system and a question and answer segment will allow participants to receive a full understanding of the program and key features.

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E-Verify is a free Internet-based system that gives employers the ability to confirm the legal working status of a new hire in seconds. E-Verify is a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). E-Verify works by allowing participating employers to electronically compare employee information taken from the Form I-9 (the paper-based employee eligibility verification form used for all new hires) against more than 425 million records in SSA's database and more than 60 million records in DHS immigration databases. More than 70,000 employers use E-Verify and 1,000 new employers are joining the program each week.

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CGL Helps Players Shine

Summer collegiate baseball league can be a gateway to pro ball

BASEBALL | Every year around this time, when nothing is more welcome than a cool breeze to break up the humidity, Chris Burr puts on the cap he's worn for almost a decade and heads out to coach in the Clark C. Griffith Collegiate League (CGL), a D.C.-area wood-bat summer baseball league, which begins its annual end-of-the-season Jacobs Cup Tournament on Monday.

"I can't imagine doing much else during the hot summer days," said Burr, 38, who, for the past 11 years, has coached the Vienna Senators in the CGL. "I've been a baseball player

or a coach for the majority of my life, and it's been something that's a part of me. It's this intrinsic appreciation for the game that we're trying to communicate to the young players."

The young players Burr is talking about all have remaining college eligibility and come to the CGL from all over the nation and the world to play in a 44-game season.

Like the more widely known Cape Cod League, the CGL provides college players exposure to professional teams. Entering the 2008 season, more than 50 CGL alumni have reached the major leagues, including Atlanta Braves first baseman Mark Teixeira and Boston Red Sox closer Jon Papelbon.

Mason Griffin, 23, came to the Senators three years ago. Now a



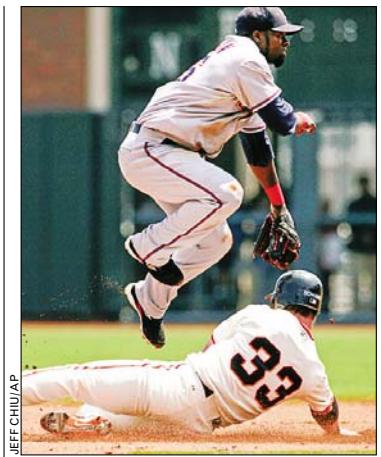
Atlanta first baseman Mark Teixeira is one of many CGL alumni in the majors.

senior in college, he says he has aspirations of playing professional baseball. This summer, he had a 2.23 ERA in three appearances through July 22. His name hasn't been called in the MLB draft yet, but he hopes that playing in the CGL again will help get him noticed.

Burr's Senators, who were ranked as the top collegiate summer team in the country by Perfect Game Crosschecker as recently as July 3 clinched their tenth CGL title. The CGL playoffs start Monday, and Vienna will compete in the National Baseball Congress World Series Aug. 1 to 15 in Wichita, Kan.

"We started off doing a program that was based on preparing good college players for professional baseball," said Burr, who played in the Texas Rangers' organization and runs an automotive facility, "and it has developed into a culture of its own." JOE BUBAR

The author plays for the D.C. Grays, one of the seven CGL teams.



Nats shortstop Cristian Guzman has just two hits in his last 18 at-bats.

Giants Blank Nats, 1-0

Washington is shut out for the MLB-leading 13th time this season

NATIONALS | Matt Cain pitched a four-hitter, Dave Roberts singled home a run in the eighth inning and the San Francisco Giants earned their first three-game home sweep of the season Thursday with a 1-0 win over the Washington Nationals.

This was the 13th time Washington has been blanked, a major league high.

Washington's Cristian Guzman doubled with one out in the ninth to put runners on second and third, and San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy paid Cain (6-8) a visit on the mound but left him in to finish — with NL saves leader Brian Wilson warming up in the bullpen.

Ryan Zimmerman flied out to right, and Randy Winn made a perfect throw home to catcher Bengie Molina to hold the runner at third.

Cain then got Austin Kearns to fly out to right to end it.

San Francisco took all seven games from the Nationals this year after sweeping a four-game set in Washington from June 6-9 — just the third time since 1900 the franchise has swept a season series of more than three games.

JANIE McCauley (AP)

Top Pick Hurts Hamstring

Rookie WR Thomas could miss Redskins' 1st preseason game

REDSKINS | Redskins rookie receiver Devin Thomas probably will miss the team's first exhibition game after pulling his right hamstring in practice Thursday.

Washington's top pick in this year's draft is expected to miss about two weeks of training camp. That timetable would keep Thomas out of the Aug. 3 Hall of Fame game against the Indianapolis Colts.

"We're going to see after two weeks how this thing looks. He may be ready in two weeks; it may be a few days later," Redskins coach Jim Zorn said. "We'll see how fast he can work himself into full speed."

Thomas was hurt while reaching over his head to catch a pass from quarterback Jason Campbell during 11-on-11 drills in the morning. Thomas was driven away on a cart, but he came out to watch Thursday's afternoon practice session.

"I was running a route, and the ball's in the air, and I felt something just grab at me," Thomas said. "It kind of locked up on me, just like a cramp, and I couldn't put any pres-



Rookie WR Devin Thomas will be out at least two weeks after pulling his hamstring.

sure on it."

He was drafted in the second round out of Michigan State, 34th overall, and signed a \$4.83 million, four-year contract last week.

Thomas was optimistic that he will miss less than two weeks. Still, Zorn acknowledged there's a "learning curve" for any rookie.

"He's got to nurse this thing back a little bit, but it doesn't mean he can't learn, pay attention," Zorn said.

The team's top pick in 2007, safety LaRon Landry, was held out of both practices Thursday because of a strained left hamstring. He was hurt Wednesday, but isn't expected to miss more than a few days.

"I don't think it's that bad. I don't think it's as bad as Devin's is," Zorn said. HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)

New guy: Jim Harbaugh is running the show in Baltimore — and it's a much different show | Today's Post, Sports



Campbell

But military policy was reinterpreted in recent weeks. The Army on Wednesday officially informed Campbell, a second lieutenant, and the Lions that he would be required to serve at least two years on active duty before he could apply to be released. He already had agreed to terms with the Lions and was due to start training camp Thursday.

"I'm being optimistic about everything," Campbell said. "When I went to the academy I initially went to the academy to be an officer." (AP)

Weekend | Sports

WNBA Hands Out Suspensions For Skirmish

WNBA | The WNBA swiftly suspended the Detroit and Los Angeles players and Shock assistant coach Rick Mahorn for their role in a skirmish at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Shock forward Plenette Pierson was suspended Thursday for four games, the harshest penalty, for initiating and escalating the brawl.

Mahorn and Sparks Shannon Bobbitt and Muriel Page were suspended for two games.

"As a team, we're incensed that Rick Mahorn was suspended," Detroit coach Bill Laimbeer said. "He was trying to be a peacemaker, and now he's being thrown under the bus."

Players suspended for one game included Kara Braxton, Tasha Humphrey, Elaine Powell, Sheri Sam, Lisa Leslie, Candace Parker and DeLisha Milton-Jones. (AP)

18-1 Patriots Start Fresh

Belichick says his team began preparing 1 day after Super Bowl loss

NFL | The New England Patriots signed first-round draft pick Jerod Mayo on Thursday, bringing their last unsigned selection into the fold as the defending AFC champions opened training camp and began their quest to put last season's imperfect season behind them.

A linebacker who was the 10th overall selection in this year's draft, Mayo's deal was wrapped up in the morning as his teammates embarked on their first practice, and he was expected to be in the field house for the evening workout.

Less than six months after the Patriots' bid for a perfect season — and a fourth Super Bowl title in eight years — was foiled with a

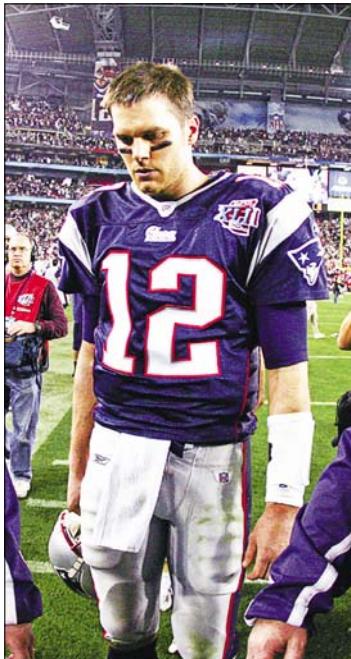
17-14 loss to the New York Giants, New England was back on the practice field.

"We're disappointed about the way it ended, no doubt about it," quarterback Tom Brady said. "It all starts fresh for us, starting today."

Brady said head coach Bill Belichick has not used last season's failure as a tool to motivate his team — not yet, at least. If the Super Bowl comes up, it is in the context of game films and adjustments, just like any other game, Brady said.

But that doesn't help soothe the pit in his stomach when he watches it.

"When you see the game, you think about how you felt after the game," he said. "You can't change it at all — you really can't — as hard as you might want to, you can't."



Tom Brady walks off the field after the Giants spoiled his team's perfect year.

The coach and his players were already in harmony when addressing the 18-1 season, parroting the philosophy that they just needed to get better with each practice and each day. The focus is on the short term, Belichick said, not the long term — just like every other year.

"I don't think he's concerned with what we did last year," Brady said. "I think he's concerned with what we did today."

With reporters, Belichick made only one reference to the Super Bowl, when he was talking about the work he and his team have put in since last season ended.

"For you, this is kind of like the first day of football season," he said. "But for us, the first day of the season was probably the Monday after the Super Bowl when we started making decisions." JIMMY GOLEN (AP)

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What Are They Thinking?

It seems to defy logic, but the chance of fame lures cyclists to dope

CYCLING | Cycling's image is in tatters, and authorities inside and outside the sport are being tougher than ever on doping. Yet it hasn't stopped the drug cheaters at the Tour de France, which ends Sunday.

Beyond ethics, it would seem to defy common sense for cyclists to break the rules in the middle of such a crackdown.

The lure of fame and fortune — embodied in the yellow jersey — are amazingly powerful, of course. But doping and cycling experts also say the cheating goes on because of a general disdain among riders and teams for the drug-testing process.

"They think they can get away with it," said Dr. Ramsus Dams-



Riccardo Ricco spent a night in jail after being caught doping with EPO in this year's Tour. "They think they can get away with it," said Dr. Ramsus Damsgaard.

gaard, a leading Danish doping expert. "Whenever anybody presents them with a new substance, they feel comfortable using it."

The credibility of cycling's mar-

quee event has once more been tarnished by doping cheats this year: Three riders were kicked out after testing positive for the banned blood booster EPO. Two of those — prom-

SASTRE STILL LEADS

Carlos Sastre retained the overall race lead on Thursday, when Marcus Burghardt won the stage:

→ Sastre leads CSC teammate Frank Schleck of Luxembourg by 1 minute, 24 seconds. Bernhard Kohl of Austria is third, 1:33 behind, and Cadel Evans of Australia is fourth, 1:34 back. Burghardt and Carlos Barredo of Spain finished more than 6 minutes ahead of the pack.

ising young rider Riccardo Ricco of Italy and Moises Duenas Nevado of Spain — spent a night in jail for police questioning.

The cases are yet another black eye for a sport damaged by Floyd Landis' positive test for testosterone in the 2006 Tour.

The dragnet has gotten tighter.

France has enacted a law that makes possession of doping products illegal. The country's anti-doping agency — not the International Cycling Union, as in years past — is conducting checks at the Tour. The agency's chaperones escort eight riders to doping controls after every stage.

The riders who tested positive "thought the tests wouldn't be rigorous. They got it wrong," agency chief Pierre Bordry said. "I didn't think they'd be so clumsy. What surprised them is that we did what we said we would."

The temptation of EPO, cycling's designer drug, can be enormous.

"The fact is that the products today work well: EPO can increase the body's ability to absorb oxygen by 10 to 15 percent," said Alain Grosclambert, a sports psychologist for the French Cycling Federation.

But it's not without risks. "When we tell young athletes aged 22, 23 or 24 that they are putting their health in danger [by using performance enhancers], they laugh," Grosclambert said. JAMEY KEATEN (AP)

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Entertainment Weekend

MBAQANGA

Out of Africa: Oliver Mtukudzi represents the music of his homeland, Zimbabwe, at Zanzibar's Kololo African music festival tonight | **21**



FAITH TO FAITH: David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson renew their philosophical bickering in "The X-Files: I Want to Believe."

Still Searching

New 'X-Files' film doesn't do Mulder and Scully justice

REHASH | The makers of the new "X-Files" movie have done themselves a disservice in coming up with the elongated title, "The X-Files: I Want to Believe." Really, it just invites a whole bunch of bad jokes, which are justified.

It's easy to imagine how one might go: I want to believe another "X-Files" movie is necessary 10 years after the first one came out and six years after the pioneering sci-fi series went off the air.

Well, David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson do slip comfortably back into the roles that made them superstars in the 1990s, but the movie itself from director and "X-Files" series creator Chris Carter

never feels like anything more than an extended episode. It lacks the complexity and scope required to rise to a theatrical level; it doesn't challenge us in any new or exciting ways. The big mystery? Just a rehashed urban legend.

In writing the script, Carter and collaborator Frank Spotnitz have come up with a stand-alone story, one that doesn't require expertise in "X-Files" minutiae to follow,

although they've also left some nuggets for loyal fans along the way.

These days, former FBI agent Fox Mulder spends all his time hiding in his office at home, clipping articles about the same kinds of unexplained phenomena he used to investigate and obsessing about. Meanwhile, the no-nonsense Dana Scully, the doctor he was paired with, is practicing at a hospital. (The appropriately named Our Lady of Sorrows.) But when FBI agents Whitney (a severely thin Amanda Peet) and Drummy (rapper Alvin "Xzibit" Joiner) approach her about finding Mulder to help them track down a missing colleague, she gets dragged back into the fray, too. Billy Connolly co-stars as a fallen priest who may be experiencing psychic visions; he and Anderson, as the ever-doubtful Scully, have a couple of intense exchanges.

But you immediately know it's of no use when Scully says to Mulder: "I'm done chasing monsters in the dark." And that's one of the few compelling parts of "I Want to Believe" — the fact that these two are once more searching for answers, together, bickering along the way. Duchovny can still whip out a wicked one-liner. Anderson still brings grace and gravitas.

Their work on "The X-Files" turns out to have been the best of both actors' careers, and it is a pleasure to see them again. Too bad Carter and co. couldn't come up with a film that rises to the occasion. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

'Step' in the Wrong Direction

Ferrell and Reilly go slightly overboard in their comedic banter

FORMULAIC | The title is "Step Brothers." But Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly are essentially playing the same person, which is the movie's fundamental flaw.

As 40-year-olds who've never left home and are forced to share a bedroom when their parents get married, Ferrell and Reilly are in

the same state of arrested development. There's no odd-couple tension, no witty banter, just a prolonged unfunny game of one-upmanship in which each actor is trying to outdo the other in one-note obnoxiousness.

Sure, they have slight personality differences — Ferrell's Brennan wears vintage T-shirts with Pablo Cruise on them, while Reilly's Dale prefers Yoda — but they're cut from the same cloth. They look and talk alike. They share the same interest



Will Ferrell, left, and John C. Reilly, right, lack the chemistry of their past films.

in dinosaurs, bad TV, worse music and above all, crass put-downs.

They hate each other, eventually become best friends and then hate each other all over again. But regardless of the status of their relationship, the humorously awkward chemistry these actors shared as teammates in "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" is gone. "Step Brothers" doesn't even begin to challenge either of them — it's several steps down for both.



Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE [WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://WASHINGTONGPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)

Any suggestions on where to get gelato, since it's summertime and all?

I stopped by Boccato Gelatos last night, the new place on Wilson Boulevard, and it was very good. Everything's pretty lo-fi as of now (bring cash), but that adds to the charm. They have some funky flavors, and you can even suggest new ones on a sheet of paper hanging on the wall. The owner narrows down the choices and people can vote.

→ *Boccato Gelatos, 2719 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-869-6522. (Clarendon)*



The afternoon tea spread at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel is jolly good, chap.

I'd like to take my friend out for a formal afternoon tea to celebrate her birthday. Any suggestions on the best places for tea in the District?

I've been to both the Mandarin Oriental and the Ritz (at Tysons, although I believe the D.C. location does it, too) for tea, and both were excellent. I think the prices hovered somewhere in the \$30 to \$40 range.

→ *Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 1330 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-554-8588. (Smithsonian)*

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The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

Zimbabwe is the source of a lot of sad news these days, but Oliver Mtukudzi is an ambassador of strength, positivity and hope for his country. Known lovingly as "Tuku" back home, his nickname also functions as shorthand for his unique mixture of South African mbaqanga, Zimbabwean jiti and the katekwe drumming of his clan. After 30 years and 40 albums, Mtukudzi shows no signs of slowing down, still singing protest songs in his native Shona. He's joined at ZANZIBAR's Kololo African music festival by singers Nana Frimpong of Ghana and Loide, a Maryland resident with roots in Mozambique and

Guineau Bissau.

The motto of Jason Pierce's former band, 1980s drone rockers Spacemen 3, was "Taking drugs to make music to take drugs to." Pierce has adhered to that mission statement for his entire career, the last two decades of which have been spent as the creative force behind the sublimely spacey Spiritualized. He's probably not dabbling with the mind-altering substances so much these days, especially after a recent near-death experience resulting from a bout with pneumonia (no, really, it was pneumonia). That doesn't mean his music isn't still blissed-out psych-rock that makes you wish you were back in college and had no responsibilities for the next 72 hours. The band's live show, at the 9:30 club tonight, is always appropriately mind-altering, even if it's just because of the lighting and guitar effects. Detroit garage rockers the Dirtbombs make for an unlikely, but pretty awesome, opener at the 9:30 club.



THE GOOD NEWS: Oliver Mtukudzi plays Zanzibar tonight with Loide.

SATURDAY

The juxtaposition of the phrases "bar crawl," "Adams Morgan" and "Saturday night" ordinarily sends shivers down our collective spines, but, well, when it's for charity, and when there's a theme involved, we'll let you decide for yourselves whether it's worth the trip to 18th Street. Between 6 and 11 p.m., the Tacky Tourist Mini Bar Crawl asks participants to donate a minimum of \$10 in exchange for drink specials at several bars on the strip (\$3 domestic drafts and rail drinks at Grand Central, \$3 pints and \$10 pitchers at Adams Mill, etc.). Proceeds go to a team called Save the TaTas that's participating in the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer 3-day walk in October. You're invited to come dressed as a Washington visitor, but let's be more creative than FBI T-shirts and fanny packs — maybe spending a few minutes outside the Woodley Park Metro station will give you some ideas. Register at GRAND CENTRAL between 6 and 10 p.m., and then head off.

SUNDAY

Nas' new album is actually pretty decent. A Tribe Called Quest keeps threatening to get back together, much to the delight of audiences. After 20-plus years in the game, De La Soul can still tear down any venue. And newer acts like Kidz in the Hall and Wale show that the kids might be OK because they actually learned something from their forebears. Even the Pharcyde is reuniting for **ROCK THE BELL** today. Maybe you're still on the fence because you know that getting in and out of that venue in the bucolic hamlet of Columbia could turn P.M. Dawn into "AmeriKKKa's Most Wanted"-era Ice Cube. For those concerns, On Tap has you covered with a breakfast pre-party, lawn ticket and bus ride deal for \$55. Even old, crotchety hip-hop heads can't front on that.

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BOX OFFICE BEHEMOTH: Christian Bale, above, and Heath Ledger, below, star in "The Dark Knight." The film is known not only for its brilliant acting, but also for making \$155 million last weekend. Holy fortune, Batman!

Now Playing

GET SMART (PG-13, 110 minutes) Based on the cult TV comedy hit of the '60s, the film is slick and smooth and ticks along primarily on the excellent chemistry between Steve Carell and Anne Hathaway in the famed Don Adams-Barbara Feldon roles as Agent 86 and his far-more-capable female partner, 99, in the employ of spy agency CONTROL. Dwayne Johnson has a nice turn as a good-natured uber-agent 23, who casually beats the stuffing out of everyone, then smiles broadly and says, "Let's go to lunch." Was there a plot? I can hardly remember. Oh, yes, now it's coming back, something stolen from Bond, in which the nefarious KAOS organization is stockpiling nuclear weapons to extort billions from the West. As I say: darned funny! Weightless as froth, forgettable as dew, but pretty darned funny. (SH)

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13, 152 minutes) Heath Ledger's performance is a subtle, nuanced piece of acting so powerful it banishes all memories of the handsome Aussie behind it. He's supple of body and expressive with only his eyes, and his voice has undulations of irony and mockery and psychopathology. But when the Joker is absent, the film loses most of its energy and becomes nothing but a pret-



ty-boy face-off between Christian Bale (Batman) and Aaron Eckhart. Maggie Gyllenhaal as Batman's lost heart, Rebecca Daves, is perhaps too ironic for the Batman world; with those perpetually knowing eyes suggesting that she always gets it, she doesn't really fit. The effects and stunts are first-rate, although for big bangs, the opening bank

robbery is probably the most powerfully done. Though Batty and Laugher do go at it, the big fight is not nearly as mythic as it should have been, giving the movie an ending that feels more anti- than climactic. (SH)

HANCOCK (PG-13, 82 minutes) Will Smith plays a superhero assisted in the miraculous by cutting-edge special effects

and by the specialest effect of them all, Charlize Theron. It begins with Hancock awaking on a park bench in Los Angeles, another grizzled, soosed, unwashed member of that city's homeless. Then he shoots skyward like an Atlas headed for Moscow. Quickly he diverts to a law enforcement crisis, a running gunfight on the freeway. He saves the day with a

drunk's finesse, and rather than being feted, he reconfirms that Angelenos have tired of his man-of-steel thing, so he quickly finds relief in alcohol and the nearest park bench. So what is a despised superhero to do? Hire a PR man (Jason Bateman). It's kind of amusing, but then the movie takes quite possibly the strangest turn in movie history. It changes course, tone, concern and story issue, and never recovers. (SH)

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13, 110 minutes) Fans will be gratified by Guillermo del Toro's affectionate sequel to his film "Hellboy," in which he introduced the screen's most lovable anti-superhero, a giant the color of boiled lobster with Chiclet teeth and a really bad attitude. The great Ron Perlman is back as the cigar-smoking, chocolate-addicted lug, who again is joined in his exploits by his equally funny and flawed cohorts: the gentle, blue-gilled Abe Sapien and Liz Sherman (Selma Blair), now Hellboy's girlfriend and still prone to literally fiery outbursts. The enterprise reeks of authenticity and is shot through with the franchise's signature goofiness, sarcasm and good heart. As he has done in all his movies, del Toro creates unforgettable images, filled with color, texture, lyricism and horror. (AH)

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG, 92 minutes) The latest iteration of the Jules Verne classic uses modern cinematic technology with verve and ingenuity. College geologist Trevor Anderson (Brendan Fraser) and his 13-year-old nephew, Sean (Josh Hutcherson), find

Entertainment | Weekend



PERIOD PIECE

No Need to Revisit

"BRIDESHEAD REVISITED" IS AN UNIMPEACHABLE YET ultimately unmoving adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's classic novel about social ambition, religious conflict and doomed love. There's nothing wrong with director Julian Jarrold's film: The cast is fine, the production values solid. Everything is meticulously appointed in the traditional high style of a Merchant-Ivory period piece. It's all beautiful — but bland. The whole endeavor just rings a bit hollow, especially condensed to two hours, compared to the epic 11-episode miniseries from 1981. Purists will be pleased, though, to see that Castle Howard, the setting for the beloved Granada Television miniseries, again plays the part of Brideshead. The filmmakers said they couldn't find any other place that was quite so oppressive and grand. It is indeed a nice place to visit — or revisit — but you wouldn't want to live there. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Now Playing

themselves on a trip to Iceland, where a volcano is showing unusual activity. With the help of a gorgeous mountain climber named Hannah (Anita Briem), they get to their desired destination, only to be shunted into an abandoned mine during a thunderstorm. From there, they're hurled farther downward until they reach the titular center of the Earth. The film is terrific family entertainment, an action comedy on par with "Night at the Museum" and "National Treasure." Granted, there are scenes of frightening peril. But any fear is quickly dispelled by the film's sense of humor, abetted by Fraser's warm, easy-going style. (AH)

KIT KITTREDGE: AN AMERICAN GIRL (G, 96 minutes) Set in 1934 Cincinnati, the Kittredges are solidly ensconced in their suburban home, secure and warm and full of love for one another. Perky 9-year-old Kit (Abigail Breslin) is trying to "break into print" at the downtown Cincinnati Register. We watch as the Depression erodes the sanctity of the Kittredges' mid-

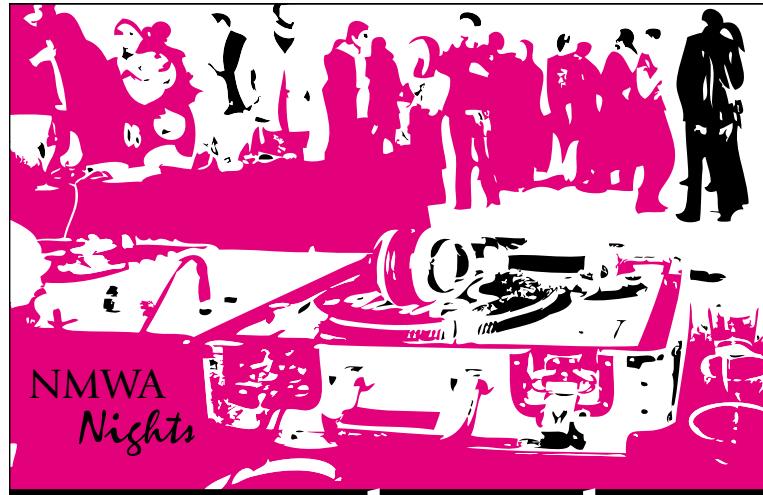
dle-class security. Dad (Chris O'Donnell) loses his car dealership and can't find work; gradually, the family makes the decision to take in boarders, and Dad hits the road. In what seems like 10 minutes Mom (Julia Ormond) and the kid are sharing the abode with zanies, wackos and crazies! The movie deserves some kind of award for obviousness as it telegraphs every development, traffics in stereotypes and clichés, and merrily appends 21st-century political correctness onto the 20th century's hardest and grimiest decade. The tweener girls for whom it is aimed deserve better. (SH)

KUNG FU PANDA (PG, 90 minutes) At a brisk and appropriate 88 minutes, this computer-animated DreamWorks film is infectious and inspiring. Jack Black as panda Po and is the vocal embodiment of the lazy dreamer. Dustin Hoffman is terrific as martial arts master Shifu, who is alternately wise, worldly, irritated and mournful over the traitorous defection to the dark side of his once prize pupil Tai Lung (Ian McShane). To deflect Tai Lung's inevitable attempt to seize the legendary Dragon Scroll, Shifu has assembled the Furious Five: Tigress (Angelina

Jolie), Crane (David Cross), Monkey (Jackie Chan!), Mantis (Seth Rogen) and Viper (Lucy Liu). There's not much for the supporting players to do; it is the "Po Show," the triumph of the adorable over the malevolent. As such, it is not a documentary. It is, however, a really good time. (JA)

MAMMA MIA! (PG-13, 103 minutes) The brassy, bawdy musical presents itself as a piece of clever counter-programming to this summer's surfeit of pounding, effects-driven comic-book movies. But filmgoers eager to sample its sunny, synth-pop pleasures are likely to feel just as bludgeoned: in this case, by an Abba-bomb wrapped in a huge turquoise-colored feather boa. That's not to say that fun isn't to be had; Meryl Streep plays Donna Sheridan, mother of Sophie (Amanda Seyfried), who is about to get married. Sophie has invited three men to the wedding, one of whom might be her biological father: Bill Anderson (Stellan Skarsgård), Sam Carmichael (Pierce Brosnan) and Harry Bright (Colin Firth). Streep is a wonderment, belting her way to another winning performance. But

Continued on page 24



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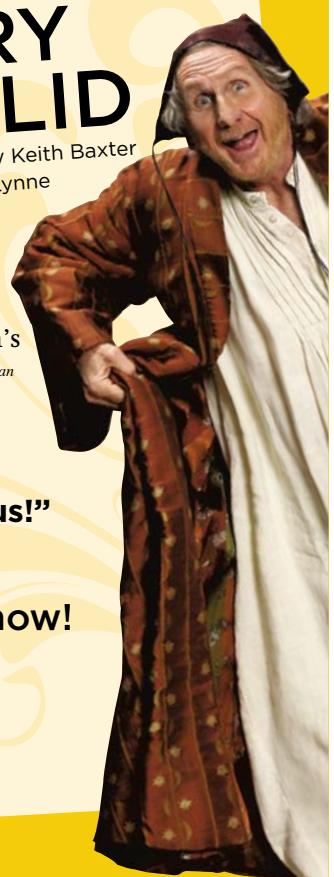
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Weekend | Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 23

those rare moments seem completely at odds with the film's worship of all things synthetic. (AH)

MEET DAVE (PG, 91 minutes) The film features a rather clever premise, ideally suited to the gifts of its star, Eddie Murphy: physical comedy and mimicry. Murphy plays two roles here. One, the Captain, is a two-inch-high alien in charge of a tiny crew of interstellar explorers. Dave is the name of the crew's ship — a human-size robot modeled on



the Captain — which has just crashed into New York's Liberty Island. "Meet Dave" chronicles the exploits of Dave as he meets and tries to blend in with the locals; meanwhile, each of his "human" functions is being controlled inside his body by one of the Captain's tiny crew. There are moments that make the most of Murphy's assets here, but not nearly enough of them; for the most part, the film features him moving with unblinking passivity through the urban landscape, uttering things like "My colon is impacted" with robotic flatness. You'll no doubt forget Dave within minutes, but at least he came in peace. (AH)

Continued on page 26

"HUGELY INVENTIVE AND SMASHINGLY BEAUTIFUL."

Joe Morgenstern, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"HELLBOY II" IS A WONDER TO BEHOLD.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"THIS WILL BECOME A CLASSIC."
Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"HELLBOY II" STANDS ALONE AS ONE OF
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Rossiter Drake, THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

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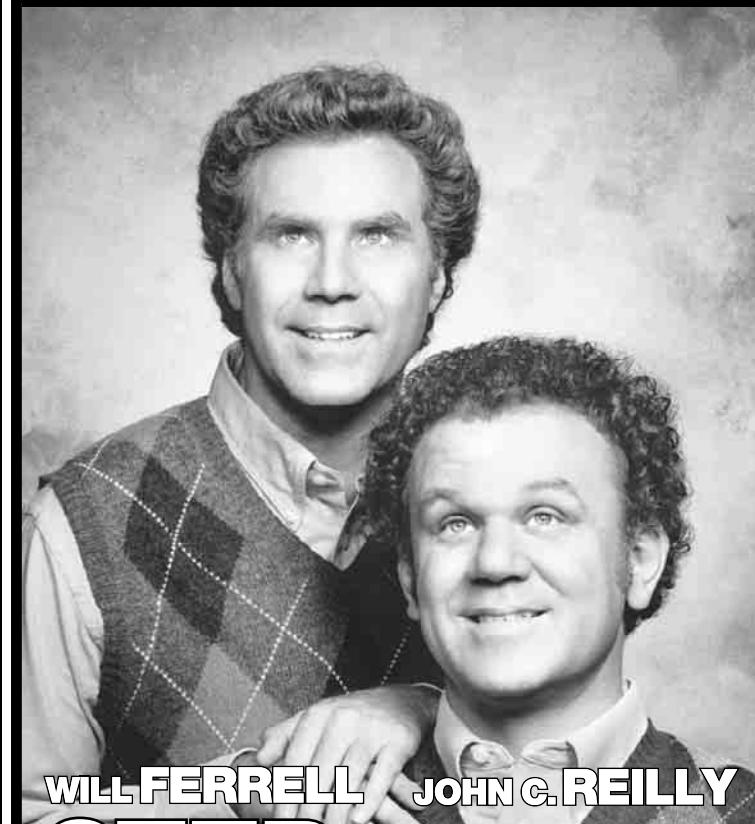
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Continued from page 24

MONGOL (R, 124 minutes) A wallow in old movie pleasures, full of battles, flying dust, thousands of men on horseback, beautiful women, treachery, slaughter, really cool hats and even more slaughter. When the big-budget, cast-o'-thousands Russian epic begins, Temudjin (played by Japanese heartthrob Tadanobu Asano), as the man who would become Genghis Khan was once known, is a 9-year-old on his way to pick out a bride. Temudjin has seen Borte, and that's enough for him.



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MONEY'S ON THE BIG GUY: The devil may win in "Hellboy II: The Golden Army."

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Lou Lumenick,
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So, that core of love, lust and touchy-feely is what drives "Mongol." Still, there's a lot of guy stuff. They ride, they fight, they ride some more, they fight some more. Whoever was on the electronic blood spurt machine probably got overtime or at least a bonus. In the end, we're about a third of the way through the great Khan's life. That suggests two sequels. I, for one, can't wait. (SH)

SEX AND THE CITY (R, 136 minutes) With its unapologetic materialism, raunchiness and heroines who managed to be sympathetic even in the midst of almost pathological self-absorption, "Sex and the City" became one of the most successful guilty pleasures in the histo-

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Pete Hammond, **HOLLYWOOD.COM**

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Now Playing

ry of Sunday night TV. The movie version succeeds just as well, cramming what used to take a whole season into a nearly 261/27-hour marathon of men, misery and Manolos. Clearly made for the show's devoted fans, newcomers to the story might be puzzled at the movie's worship of Louis Vuitton purses and the silly women who carry them. But one of the movie's great pleasures is how the filmmakers embrace their characters' advancing ages while celebrating over-40 fabulosity. Like the show, the movie



APING ASTRONAUTS: Luna, left, and Titan, center, are wary of Ham III's antics in the animated feature "Space Chimps."

invites inevitable questions: Does it simply perpetuate retrograde, materialistic myths about having it all, or is it an example of feminism in four-inch heels? Altogether now: We can't help but wonder. (AH)

SPACE CHIMPS (G, 81 minutes) It's not that there aren't moments of banana-peel-worthy levity in this chimpoverished Fox product (yes, it's very big on the ape puns). But in the evolution of this summer's animated comedies, "Chimps" is the missing link no one was looking for. Our hairy hero, Ham III (voice of Andy Samberg), is drafted into a PR-heavy government mission, in which a crew of space

Continued on page 29

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PUCKER UP, OLD MAN: Mary-Kate Olsen prepares to lay one on Ben Kingsley in the 1990s throwback "The Wackness."

Now Playing

Continued from page 27

apes must track down a \$5 billion intergalactic probe that has disappeared into a wormhole. Teamed with Luna (Cheryl Hines) and Titan (Patrick Warburton), they land on the planet Malgor, where the power-mad Zartog (Jeff Daniels) has grabbed the sought-after Infinity space probe and is using its movable claws to subjugate his planet-mates. When Titan is taken prisoner, he uses Zartog's hunger for rule against him. This might not be the movie's only moral, but it's certainly the most pointed. (JA)

WALL-E (G, 97 minutes) Set in a future in which Earth has become covered in trash and swept by dust storms and where the only wildlife is the cockroach, "WALL-E" refers to our hero: a Waste Allocation Load Lifter, Earth class. He has been left behind to toil endlessly in the shadow of the planet's rubbish skyline. Meanwhile, humankind has been traveling through space for 700 years waiting for Earth to regenerate. Thanks to the constant

attention of robots, the human race has been reduced to morbid obesity, sloth and interactive video screens. This is not the Enchanted Forest. It's too plausible for that. "WALL-E" is really an art film. It is besotted with its own technology, its own art — almost to the point that it allows technology to sublimate the story. It is a jewel of a film in conception, execution and message. (JA)

WANTED (R, 104 minutes) Angelina Jolie takes on a gats-and-tats role as a gorgeous assassin in Timur Bekmambetov's adaptation of Mark Millar and J.G. Jones' comic book. James McAvoy also stars as a neurotic insurance dweeb who finds himself adopted into the Fraternity, a coven of elite hit men led by Morgan Freeman. The film invites inevitable comparisons to "The Matrix" with its watery visual effects and shooters bending bullets like Beckham. With its pounding, bloody violence, foul-mouthed language and putrid worldview, the film isn't comic book-y on par with "Iron Man" or "The Incredible Hulk." Rather it's an example of revenge of the nerds at its nastiest and most vulgar. (AH)

THE WACKNESS (R, 95 minutes) It's the

summer of 1994 in Manhattan, and recent high school graduate and weed man Luke Shapiro (Josh Peck) is approaching the season with anxiety. His constantly fighting parents are teetering on the brink of financial ruin; Stephanie (Olivia Thirlby), the girl he's crushing on, barely knows he exists; and his only confidant is drug-addled psychiatrist Dr. Squires (Ben Kingsley), who happens to be Stephanie's stepfather — and Luke's best client. Levine does a good job setting up the atmosphere in New York at the dawn of Giuliani Time, thanks especially to a soundtrack dominated by such hip-hop godfathers as Nas and Notorious B.I.G. He doesn't do quite as effective a job with his characters, who never quite manage to earn our sympathies. The deepest thing about "The Wackness" is Thirlby, who, after supporting turns in "Juno" and "Snow Angels," is quickly becoming reason enough to see any film she's in. (AH)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON AND TERESA WILTZ. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

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Television

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

'ROSEMARY'S BABY II'

Demi Moore plays a pregnant woman who discovers that her child's birth may spark the apocalypse in the 1988 occult hoot **THE SEVENTH SIGN** (7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Fri., Oxygen).

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Patrick Swayze plays a bar bouncer with a Ph.D., as only Patrick Swayze can, in the one-of-a-kind 1989 action film **ROAD HOUSE** (8 p.m., Fri., AMC) with Kelly Lynch, Sam Elliott and Ben Gazzara. Best get-well wishes to Swayze.

GOODNIGHT AND CHECKMATE

David Strathairn guest-stars as a chess master on **MONK** (9 p.m., Fri., USA).

DUH-NAH. DUH-NAH, DUH-NAH.

With Discovery Channel's annual Shark Week just two nights away, rival cable network National Geographic gets into the act with **SHARKVILLE** (10 p.m., Fri.), an



WE'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER PAPER: Discovery's Shark Week starts Sunday.

hour-long special about hunting great whites off the coast of South Africa.

COUNTDOWN TO CONAN

Jay Leno hosts Kevin Spacey and Triumph the Insult Comic Dog on the **TONIGHT SHOW** (11:35 p.m., Fri., NBC).

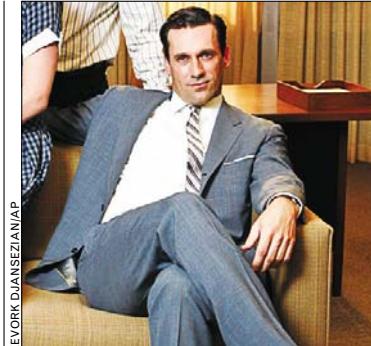
LICENSE TO BE AWFUL

Robin Williams, Mandy Moore and John Krasinski star in the 2007 comedy **LICENSE TO WED** (8 p.m., Sat., HBO).

MICHAEL SCOTT, WILD MAN

On two episodes of **THE OFFICE** (Sat.,

STUCK IN 'THE MIDDLE' WITH YOU: ABC is giving the quirky, one-camera comedy "The Middle" one more chance. The show had a pilot for the 2006-07 season, but it was not picked up. Producers are eyeing Patricia Heaton to star this time around.



HE MAKES YOU WANT TO BUY THINGS: Jon Hamm on the set of "Mad Men."

TRUE LIFE

THE LONGEST NIGHT (10 p.m., Sun., MSNBC) recalls the recent ordeal of an Austrian woman held captive in a cellar.

MAGICAL WORLD

SOUTH PARK: IMAGINATIONLAND (10 p.m., Sun., Comedy Central) unfolds as a movie. **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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EMPEROR (PG-13) ★

RW & DA: STEP BROTHERS (R) - ID REQ'D (Studio) (1050 125 405)

645 925

STEP BROTHERS (R) - ID REQ'D (Studio) (1145 225 505) 745 1020

X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★ (Studio) (1030 110 110)

210 350 445 635 735 910 1010

SPACE CHIMPS (G) (Studio) (945 120 215 425)

MAMMA MIA (PG-13) (Studio) (1000 1100 1245 145 330 430) 615 715

900 1000

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★ (Studio) (930 100 1045 1125 1150)

7120 1250 205 310 340 410 450 525) 605 630 700 810 910 1010

920 950 1020 1050

MEET DAVE (PG) (Studio) (150) 710

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) (Studio) (725) 1030

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) (Studio) (1135)

200 415

HANCOCK (PG-13) (Studio) (1005 1225 250 510) 710 1015

WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (Studio) (755) 1035

SPACE CHIMPS (G) (Studio) (1040 120 355) 625 850

GET SMART (PG-13) (Studio) (1110 415) 940

KUNG FU PANDA (PG) (Studio) (1015 140 420)

SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (Studio) (650) 1005

WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 145 430) 730 1015

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THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★ (1000 1200 1245 130 235 330 415 500)

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MAMMA MIA (PG-13) (1030 110 400) 645 930

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JOURNEY 3-D: \$2.50 ADDED FEE FOR 3-D (PG) ★ (1100 145 415)

645 915

HANCOCK (PG-13) (1045 100 330) 600 830 1100

WALL-E (G) (1030 100 345) 630 900

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) (1100 125 155) 800 1045

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JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) 11:15 @ \$8, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40, 12:00

STEP BROTHERS (R) 10:45 @ \$6, 12:05, 1:30, 2:35, 4:30, 5:40, 7:45, 8:30, 10:30, 11:25

THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG13) 10:20, 11:45 @ \$6, 1:25, 2:45, 3:30, 7:10, 8:25, 9:55, 11:15, 12:30

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG13) 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30 @ \$6, 12:00, 12:30, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 4:45, 5:20, 6:20, 7:30, 8:30, 9:00, 10:00, 10:40, 11:10, 12:20

THE DARK KNIGHT (PG) ☐ 2:10, 5:50, 9:30

MAMMA MIA! (PG13) 10:15 @ \$6, 12:15, 1:20, 3:05, 4:40, 5:45, 7:25, 8:45, 10:45, 11:30

SPACE CHIMPS (G) 10:10 @ \$6, 12:20, 2:30, 4:35, 7:00

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) 12:40, 3:35, 6:40, 7:20, 9:50, 10:20

MEET DAVE (PG) 10:10 @ \$6, 1:40, 4:05

HANCOCK (PG13) 10:25, 11:40 @ \$6, 1:00, 2:20, 3:25, 5:00, 6:10, 7:35, 9:10, 10:10, 11:50

WALL-E (G) 10:05 @ \$6, 12:45, 3:20, 5:55, 8:40, 11:20

WANTED (PG) 12:25, 3:25, 6:30, 9:35, 12:15

GET SMART (PG13) 12:10, 4:20, 7:15, 9:05

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STEP BROTHERS (R) 11:00 @ \$6, 1:25, 3:50, 6:20, 9:00, 11:30

THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG13) 10:40 @ \$6, 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30, 12:00

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MAMMA MIA! (PG13) ☐ 11:10 @ \$6, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00

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HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) 10:35 @ \$6, 1:20, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20

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GET SMART (PG13) 9:45 PM

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HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) 10:20 @ \$6, 1:20, 4:10

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WALL-E (G) 10:05 @ \$6, 12:25, 2:50, 3:35, 6:00, 10:50

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LOOK out

* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Fitness

Exercise programs let grown-ups relive the days of P.E. class

When "spastic ball" starts, it's better to duck first and ask questions later.

This is Old School P.E., a two-hour exercise program strictly for adults, built around grown-up versions of gym class staples. Participants say getting in shape is a bonus to the main attraction — a Friday night out with friends, away from the kids.

“The nice thing about doing a group activity is that you get the social interaction.”

DEB GARDNER,
OLD SCHOOL P.E. PARTICIPANT

"From the very beginning, we decided on a very small set of rules because we didn't want it to get that 'league' kind of feel," said co-founder Mike Pettinicchio. "You want to go out, have some fun, be a little competitive, but we all have lives. There are not going to be any scouts in the stands."

In fact, there aren't any stands or bleachers in the Newport Recreation Center, just a narrow bench inches from the action. So, when a game of floor hockey or spastic ball (think soccer mixed with basketball) gets going, spectators must be ready to jump out of the way of a flying stick or ball.

The rules are simple: Spouses or significant others must play on opposing teams. Keeping score is prohibited. The commissioner — a new one is chosen each night —

decides which games are played and can alter them.

Following the success of grown-up dodgeball and kickball leagues, classes like Newport's Old School P.E. or Urban Recess in Portland, Ore., are a way to enjoy childhood activities without all the rules.

Newport Recreation director P.J. Lovely, who has been asked to speak about the program at a state conference for recreation officials, says he often has to turn people away when a new eight-week session starts because the gym is too small to accommodate more than about two dozen people.

"We're almost a victim of our own success right now," he said.

During the most recent gathering, participants started with a quick warm up session (four sit-ups, three push-ups, two jumping jacks) followed by three games: floor hockey, spastic ball and Ultimate Frisbee. They moved outside for the last activi-

INSIDE

Sheryl and Fleetwood are no-go | 42



Blog Log: Wilderness brands and rappers | 40

Discussion: It's Neil Patrick Harris! | 40



THIS IS WAY BETTER THAN RECESS: Glenn Halleck goes for the ball during an Old School P.E. game in Newport, N.H.

Adult Gym

ity, stretching out across the picturesque town common for a men-versus-women competition.

"It's a way to keep a little bit active, because that's always hard to fit into our schedules as full-time parents and full-time workers," said Deb Gardner of Croydon, N.H. But she also appreciates the chance to meet new people in a welcoming environment.

"It's not really competitive," she said. "The guys will act kind of seri-

ous, but we really just joke and have a good time all night and pick on each other and laugh."

Ethel Frese, a professor of physical therapy at Saint Louis University and board-certified cardiovascular and pulmonary specialist, said Old School P.E. fits into a trend toward fitness programs that move beyond the traditional bike or treadmill by emphasizing entertainment.

"The nice thing about doing a group activity is that you get the

social interaction, which is also part of general health," she said, noting research that shows people with lots of friends and strong social networks living longer. "I do think there is a huge social benefit of exercise."

Any activity that gets people moving is good, Frese said. And the variety offered by different games keeps the workout from getting stale, she said.

Karin Schmidt has seen that

firsthand in the Urban Recess fitness classes she runs in Portland. Activities like relay races, tag or even duck-duck-goose all are forms of efficient interval training that allow participants to stay within a target heart rate throughout their entire workout, she said.

"You get sort of distracted from the fact that you're actually working out," she said. "And I've seen some women get pretty ripped in six weeks."

HOLLY RAMER (AP)



Deb and Chris Gardner take a break between adults-only gym class-style games.

LOOK out Online

express nightout

>> EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

SOUND BETS

MPFree

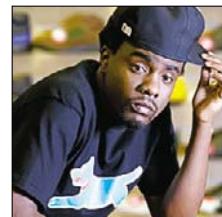
More awesome music for you, dear Express-ive. Log on for free MP3s from These Are Powers (tribal dub-punk) Alias (melancholy laptop pop), the Weeks (a former Squirrel Nut Zipper goes all Kings of Leon) and Theresa Andersson (between '60s pop-soul and kitchen-sink indie). | COMING UP



FILM

Celluloid Rising

The focus of 2008's Washington African Diaspora Film Festival is movies by or about women, ranging from dramas to documentaries, all screened at the National Museum of Women in the Arts from Friday to Sunday. Find out more about the 10 films being screened. | ONLINE NOW



MUSIC

Homegrown

An array of rap legends will grace Merriweather Post Pavilion during the Rock the Bells festival on Sunday: A Tribe Called Quest, Nas, De La Soul and three Wu-Tang Clan members. But it's D.C.'s very own Wale who has Andrew Lindemann Malone spitting words of praise. | ONLINE NOW

comment board

“I am one of the few people who worries about radiation from cell phones. I constantly remind my sister of the demise of Johnnie Cochran due to cell phone radiation.”

COMMENTER SOWHAT, WHO ADDED, “I TRY NOT TO USE MY CELL PHONE FOR EXTENDED USE, ESPECIALLY ONCE IT STARTS TO GET HOT!”

“I am much more concerned with someone texting or talking while driving and killing me than what would happen for using my cell phone normally.”

COMMENTER JULIE, WHO ADDED, “COME ON, GOVERNMENTS: MAKE HANDS-ON-THE-PHONE WHILE-DRIVING ILLEGAL, ALREADY.”



“I’m a heavy drinker and a pack-a-day smoker. I eat fast food regularly, and I avoid exercise like it’s a panhandler. If my cell is what ultimately does me in, I’m chalking it up as a victory.”

COMMENTER DEAD MAN WALKIN’, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY’S POLL CENTER QUESTION, “ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE HEALTH RISKS FROM USING YOUR CELL PHONE?”

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE HEALTH RISKS FROM USING YOUR CELL PHONE?

NO 69%

YES 31%

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER

Blog LOG

“Over time, I’ve noticed that in men and in cars, I’ve come to require the same list of nonnegotiable things.”

LACOCHRAN.BLOGSPOT.COM, RUNS DOWN THE LIST, INCLUDING “NOT GIRLY, NOT ALL FLASH, DESIGNED WITH INTELLIGENCE, SOLID, AGILE AND RESPONSIVE, THRILLING, NOT JERKY.”



JEFF CHRISTENSEN/AP

“I think it’s odd that there’s an artist who named himself ‘Timbaland.’ What others did he consider? L.L. Bean J? North Face Killa?”

ORVETTIFACTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM FINDS HIP-HOP SUPER-PRODUCER TIM MOSLEY’S STAGE NAME INTERESTING AND POKES FUN AT RAPPERS LL COOL J AND GHOSTFACE KILLA OF WU-TANG CLAN.



Discussions

Neil Patrick Harris

Actor **NEIL PATRICK HARRIS** was online Thursday to take questions about his career working on projects such as “How I Met Your Mother,” “Doogie Howser, M.D.,” the “Harold and Kumar” films, and the online musical “Dr. Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog.”

I think “How I Met My Mother” is by far the funniest show on TV. You all in the cast seem to have a great rapport. Is all the dialogue scripted, or is some of it ad-libbed (my personal theory)?

Almost all of it is scripted. There is no live audience, though, and lots of takes. So, if we have something we want to try, they are all for it. But it’s mostly just to placate our overinflated egos. And other than



Neil Patrick Harris, left, with Britney Spears on “How I Met Your Mother.”

the fact that we have all stopped speaking to each other, yeah, we get along great.

Do you ever feel deficient because you haven’t gone through the standard post-child star self-destructive freak-out?

I freaked out a bit. It’s tough going through adulthood in Hollywood.

But rather than lash out, I moved back to New Mexico for a spell and spent time rock-climbing with friends. Though, don’t underestimate knocking over a liquor store. Their shocked expressions are priceless.

Can you tell us a little about your decision to be an out and proud Hollywood actor?

I think it’s important to stand tall, whoever you are. In any situation. It may alter a career, but if you approach it with dignity, I don’t think it’ll destroy you. It just makes you dive deeper into the given role. Don’t be afraid of the consequences. Life happens.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Jen Chaney and Liz Kelly take your questions on the news and other geeky delights to be found at Comic-Con, San Diego’s annual pop-culture convention, at 11 a.m. | washingtonpost.com/discussions

LOOK out

Bizarro | Dan Piraro



Cornered | Mike Baldwin

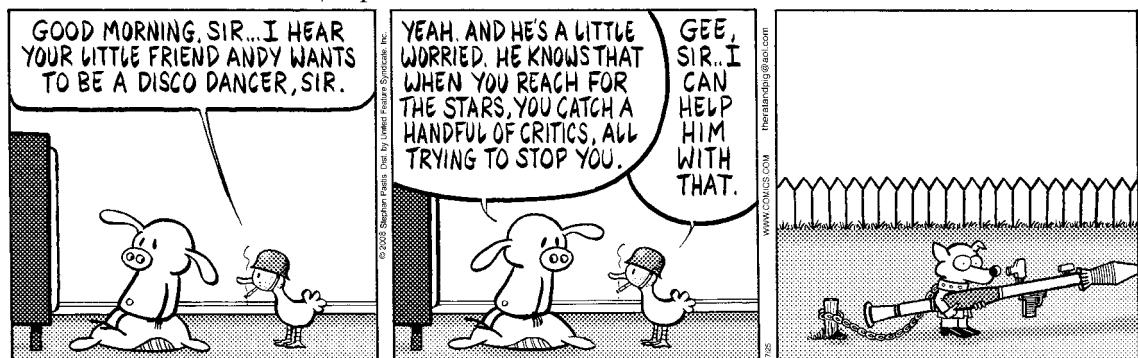


"Quick, each tranquilizer dart lasts only a few minutes. Comb your hair and throw on some makeup."

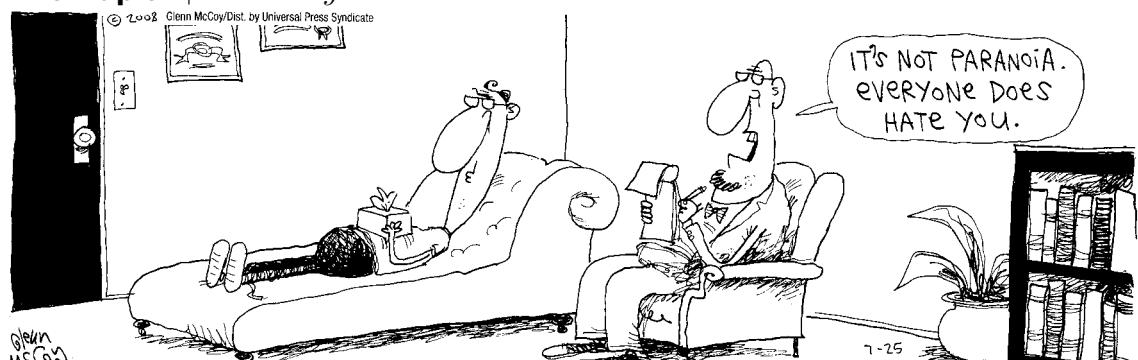
Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This day is likely to start on a note of high expectancy. Do what you can to allow momentum to build further. Don't be timid.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You will be favored as you head into a major personal challenge, and those who are on your side will be quite energetic in their support.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You'll want to carry the fun-loving spirit of the weekend into the workweek, infecting others with a kind of jovial, go-get-'em attitude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Prestige and status at the workplace will demand your attention — but be ready and willing to split your focus as required.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The sooner you run to the aid of someone in need, the sooner you will begin to benefit from your own selflessness and generosity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Time is of the essence, and from the moment you wake to the moment you retire, you'll

want to take full advantage of each and every moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may be far more vulnerable than you had anticipated, and as a result you could find yourself walking into the lion's den.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may find yourself regretting a recent impulsive action, but even your critics will have to agree that the results are quite satisfactory.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Make a more concerted effort to get just exactly what it is you want. That which is lacking is most important to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your desire to make other people happy is real enough, but you may not be willing to make a necessary sacrifice just now. The time will come.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Concentrate on more viable alternatives. You've been spending energy on those things that can't really pay off; it's time for a change.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Success at home or at the workplace will depend in large part upon your ability to strike a creative and lasting compromise with partners.



Benito Mussolini was dismissed as premier of Italy by Victor Emmanuel III in 1943.

Today in History

underwater test of the device.

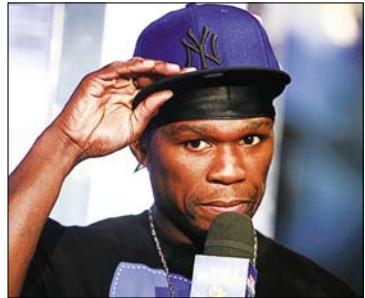
1952 Puerto Rico becomes a self-governing commonwealth of the United States.

1978 Louise Joy Brown, the first "test-tube baby," is born in Oldham, England; she'd been conceived through in-vitro fertilization.

1998 Two government officials reveal that Kenneth Starr has subpoenaed President Clinton to testify before a federal grand jury about the Monica Lewinsky case.

LOOK out

People



STEPHEN LOVINK/GETTY IMAGES

50 Cent is always an even number.

HORRORS

The Idea That He'd Have a '9' in His Name Is Slander

50 CENT has sued Taco Bell, claiming the fast-food restaurant chain is using his name without permission in advertising that asks him to change his name to 79 Cent, 89 Cent or 99 Cent. His real name is Curtis Jackson. (AP)

FINALLY

Actress Says First Sensible Thing of Her Entire Lifetime



PAMELA ANDERSON is living with ex-husband Tommy Lee and their two sons in Lee's Calabasas enclave while her new mansion is being built. Anderson says the pair aren't an item again. "The dream would be that all of us could really be together, but we're better friends," she said. (AP)



ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

VALUE

Cheap Thrill

VINCE VAUGHN is the best star for the buck, says Forbes magazine. Vaughn raked in \$14.73 of gross income for studios for every dollar he was paid for "The Break-Up," "Wedding Crashers" and "Dodgeball," the magazine calculated. Nicole Kidman is at the bottom of the list, at No. 35. (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



Today

89°



Tonight

72°



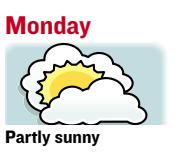
Saturday

91° / 73°



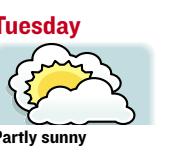
Sunday

87° / 71°



Monday

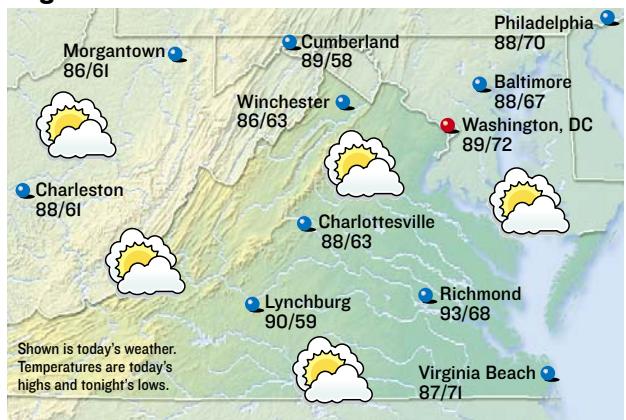
91° / 72°



Tuesday

89° / 72°

Regional Weather



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	84°
Low	67°
Normal high	89°
Normal low	71°
Average humidity	53%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	1.09"
Month to date	2.64"
Normal month to date	2.83"
Year to date	31.36"
Last year to date	16.55"
Normal year to date	22.10"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

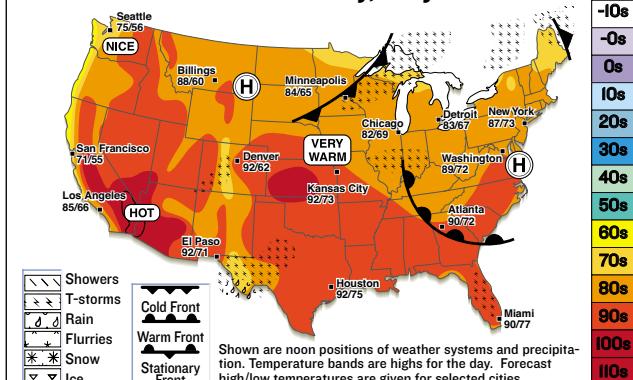
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny. High 89. Wind south 6-12 mph. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 72. Wind south 6-12 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	6:03 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:26 p.m.
Moonrise today	none
Moonset today	1:43 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
July 25	Aug 1	Aug 8	Aug 16

National Weather for Friday, July 25



National Cities

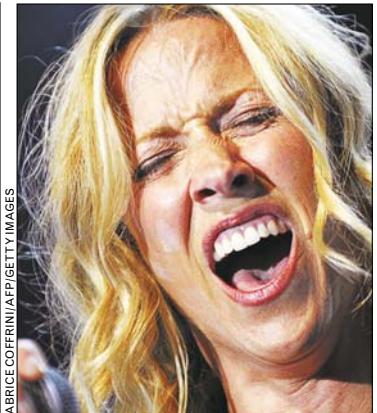
City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	90/72/pc	90/71/t	Amsterdam	79/63/pc	75/58/t
Boston	84/70/pc	88/70/pc	Athens	82/68/s	86/74/s
Chicago	82/69/t	88/63/t	Berlin	82/66/pc	84/68/c
Dallas	98/78/s	98/78/s	Buenos Aires	57/45/pc	63/46/pc
Denver	92/62/t	94/64/pc	Calgary	80/49/s	77/54/t
Honolulu	89/76/s	92/76/s	Dublin	66/55/sh	68/57/pc
Los Angeles	85/66/pc	86/66/s	Geneva	84/65/pc	77/59/t
Miami	90/77/t	89/77/t	Moscow	79/57/pc	75/59/pc
New York City	87/73/s	89/74/pc	Rome	84/64/s	87/68/pc
Orlando	92/74/t	91/75/t	Sydney	61/47/pc	62/48/s
Seattle	75/56/s	72/57/s	Tokyo	87/79/pc	87/77/t

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



You must love and respect Christian Bale.

"I would ask you to respect my privacy in the matter." The 34-year-old actor spent four hours talking to British police Tuesday following allegations he assaulted his mother and one of his three sisters in his suite at London's Dorchester Hotel two days earlier. He was released on bail but not charged. British media reported that Bale's mother and sister told police he assaulted them a day before the European premiere of "The Dark Knight." (AP)



This is not an proportionate response to her usw of Fleetwood Mac humor.

Puzzles

LOOKout

CROSSWORD | FEEL BETTER

ACROSS

1 Pacific Ocean discoverer
7 Lentil dish on an Indian menu
10 Gloomy ____ (grump)
13 Microscopic organism
14 Do something
15 Reveal, as the soul
16 Long-faced
18 Force from office
19 Baltimore baseball team, in sportspeak
20 Absorb, as a cost
21 Betrayer of biblical proportions
22 One of Jacob's wives
24 Way off
26 Like the Kalahari
29 Dejected
34 "Telephoto" or "contact" ender
35 Cooler of a kind
36 Register key
37 " ____ Station
Zebra"
38 "La Bamba" actor

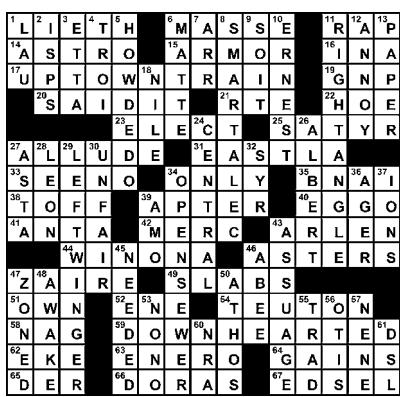
Esai
40 Bygone big bird
41 Teeny finish
43 Dorm overseers, for short
44 Write one's John Hancock
45 Melancholy
47 Low-lying islands
48 Pt. of PTA
49 Tip of Tijuana?
51 Laundry instruction
54 Word with "end" or "pits"
56 Mindful
60 Soothing plant extract
61 "Days of Future Passed" group
63 Pere and mere's son
64 Matador's encouragement
65 Mountain crests
66 Guiding principle in Chinese philosophy
67 Quirky
68 Jailbird's goal

DOWN

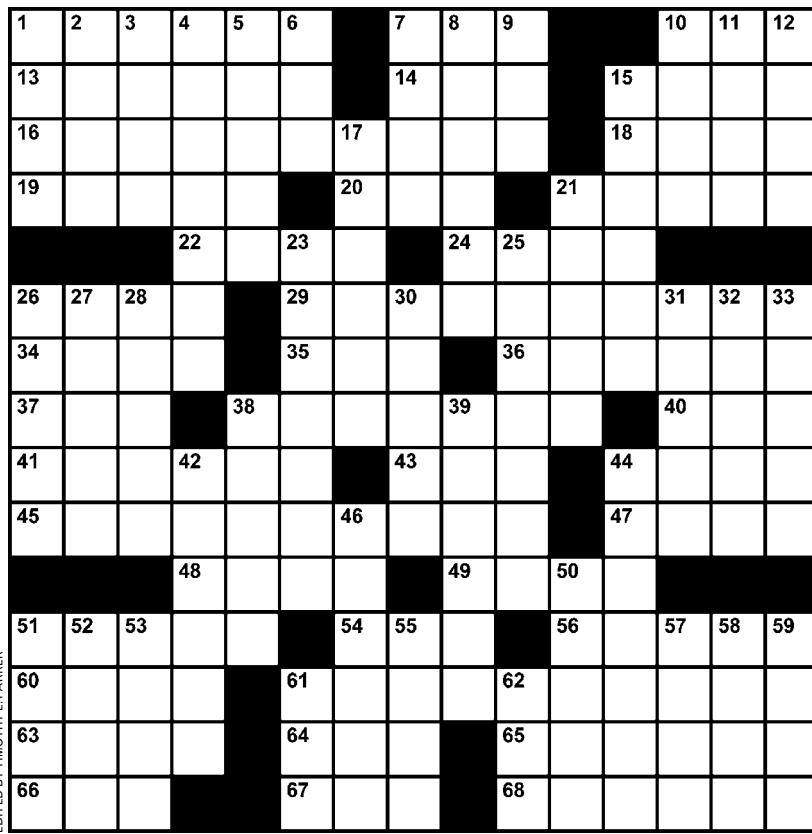
1 Rope material
2 East Asian nursemaid
3 Glittering vein
4 Witnesses
5 Beyond pudgy
6 It might give you a jump-start
7 Figures in tables
8 Volatile solvent
9 Company name abbr.
10 Showy trinket
11 Astronomical bear
12 Drops below the horizon
15 French villages
17 Try again
21 Hungarian leader Kadar
23 Makes available
25 Skill plus delicacy
26 Suspect's out
27 Scouting mission, informally
28 Liable to bungle
30 Provide weaponry
31 Lady demon
32 "Method" conclusion

33 Disengages from a habit
38 Reagan Cabinet member Ed
39 Drank like a dachshund
42 Lunar stages
44 One frowning with displeasure
46 Limitless
50 Native Israeli
51 Transport for Huck Finn
52 Hip bones
53 ____ contendere (court plea)
55 Made a row in the garden
57 Kind of mechanic
58 Film unit
59 Latin "being"
61 Milk deliverer's call
62 Pound sound

Yesterday's Solution



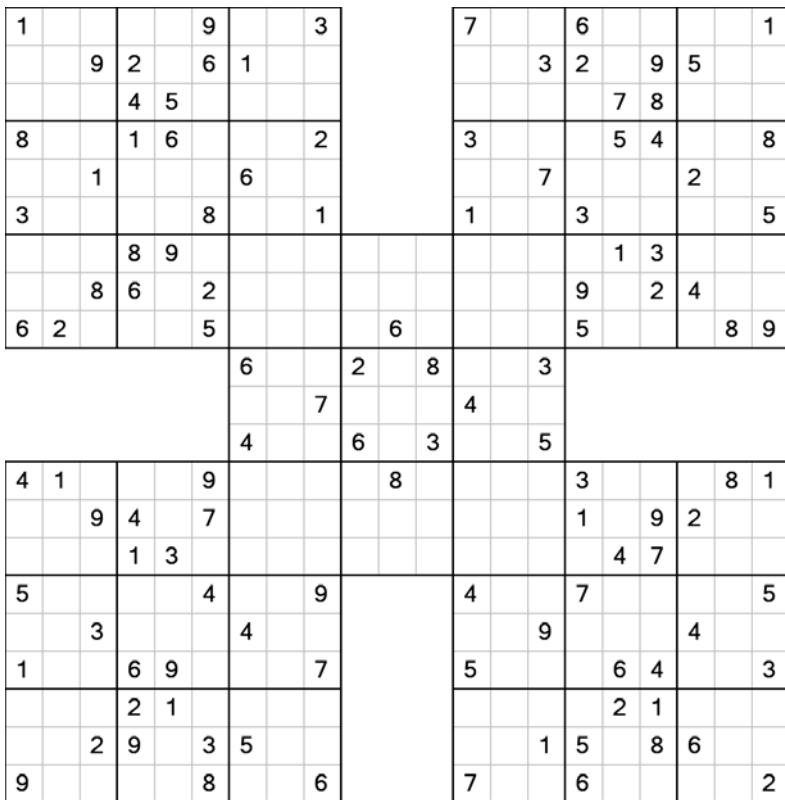
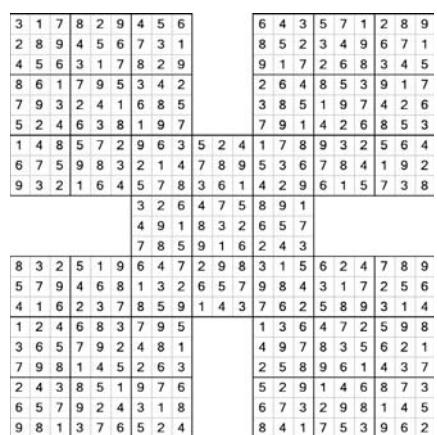
EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER



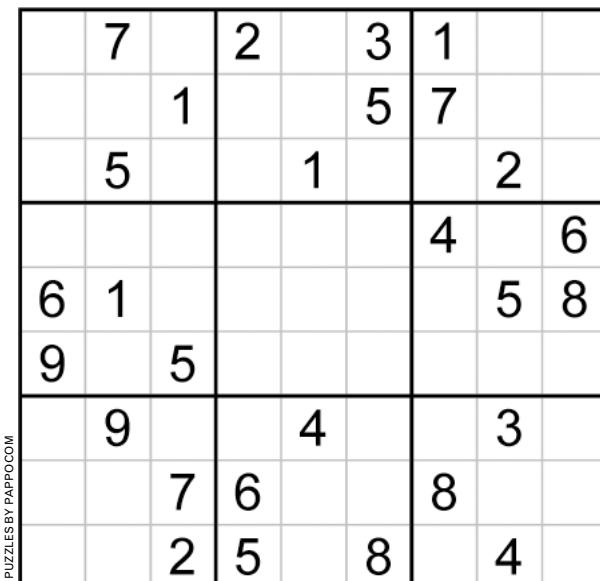
SAMURAI SUDOKU | HARD

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

Last Week's Solution

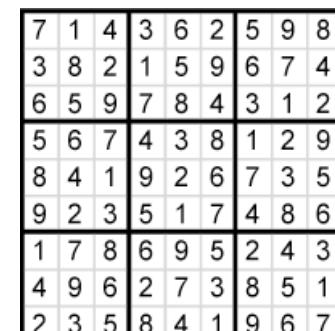


CLASSIC SUDOKU | HARD



© PUZZLES BY PAPOCOM

Yesterday's Solution



Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Sudoku?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

express

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Styles

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IMPRESSION ON HIPSTER
BAGS, SEXY FROCKS AND
HIGH-TOP SNEAKERS FIT
FOR THE STEAMIEST DAYS
OF YOU-KNOW-WHAT **E4**



face time

■ **"West Wing" nuts** know Zoey Bartlet as the president's headstrong daughter. "Mad Men" junkies know Peggy Olsen as the audience's way into the men's world of Sterling Cooper advertising. Elisabeth Moss fans see the actress as the emotional through-line on both shows. She returns to the cutthroat 1960s ad agency when Season 2 debuts on July 27 (10 p.m., AMC).

It's interesting that Zoey and Peggy aren't that different from each other. They're both treated as precious vessels everyone wants to protect.

Yes. I mean, I think that it's the age range that I'm in, and also, both characters are very smart and around men a lot.

For a pretty young girl, Peggy seems awfully comfortable bulking up as she gains weight toward the end of Season 1.

When I first started wearing [the fat suit], I was very self-conscious, because I'm a young girl, and us girls are always trying to look our best. But I got over it really fast. It did an interesting thing — it actually made me more comfortable with myself,

because it took a lot of attention off how I looked and my body.

Maybe it's because women hide behind weight, but it also brings other strengths to the forefront.

That's the whole other side of the story. She's de-sexualizing herself and saying, "I can be here based on all my other merits. I'm here because I'm smart, and that's what you should be looking at."

Well, we're so used to seeing perfectly trim, coiffed and clothed people on TV.

I had a lot of people saying, "Wow, those clothes they put you in aren't flattering." I think it tells the story of how stressful that kind of environment can be. Some people deal



Elisabeth Moss

"MAD MEN" STAR

with it by drinking and some by smoking, and a lot of girls deal with it by eating. It's interesting the judgment that's called upon her for such a silly thing.

Joan [Christina Hendricks, office manager on "Mad Men"] advised Peggy to strip and assess her flaws and assets. Would she do that?

Joan underestimates Peggy in the

beginning. Peggy is a professional, smart woman, very modern for her time. As much as she'd like to wear something cute or be as beautiful as Joan, the most important thing for her is to do a good job.

I'm sure everyone you've spoken to wants to see Peggy take over Sterling Cooper and just stomp on the men.

Totally, and it becomes much more

"When I first started wearing [the fat suit], I was very self-conscious."

about that in Season 2. I love to get to tell that story about those women, because they were out there, and they were pioneers in the workplace. They made it possible, you know, for you to do this interview.

Girl reporter!

Yeah! I love the women that come up to me and say, "Oh, God, I had a job in an office in 1960, and it was exactly like that. That happened."

You look very period in this part.

I find myself handing credit off to the other departments, because it is a group effort. It's nice to walk in and get your hair and makeup done exactly as it should be, and to put on the perfect outfit for that scene.

ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

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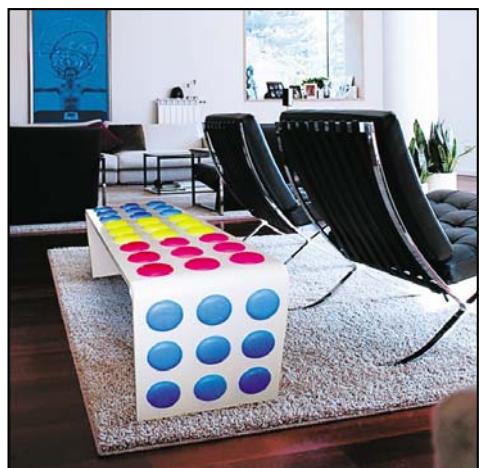
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1 Please Have a Sweet

CANDY BUTTONS—those sugary little dots you crunched right off the paper as a kid—always looked better than they tasted. Jellio's new acrylic bench (\$1,400, Jellio.com) pays tribute to their Pop Arty, kind-of-like-a-Smartie appeal. When you sit on the dots, which are actually little polyurethane cushions, there's a squish that's satisfying and funny. And, unlike the real thing, this won't cause cavities or a treat-stealing war with your little sister.

2 Water on the Brain

OUR GPS UNIT occasionally leads us into empty fields or onto one-way streets. So, we're not sure we're brave enough to use it on, or in, the water. But we are cowards, not sailors, geo-cachers or intrepid treasure hunters. The new Garmin Nuvi 500 (shown, \$500, Amazon.com) is waterproof and can use add-on topographic and marine maps; you can also put it in bicycle mode as well as pedestrian and, of course, car.



3 Straps, Not Strapped

MONICA BOTKIER'S classy, colorful handbags summon her hometown: New York. Her prices (\$300 and up per tote) explain why Cameron Diaz and Blake Lively are carrying them, *not* you. However, her Target line (\$20-\$50, Target.com) brings similar hobos and metallic wristlets to gals who read *Us Magazine*, but don't appear in its pages.



4 Spikes We Can Like

IT LOOKS LIKE A MACE (as in the medieval weapon). But Givenchy's Phenomen'Eyes mascara (in black and brown, \$27, [Sephora](http://Sephora.com)) is fierce in a different manner. You roll the spiky thing across your lashes, dab at the edges, and end up with lovely, relatively natural-looking results. It takes some practice—and courage—to roll something that looks like a cocklebur (Google it) so near one's eye, but we promise it's safe.



5 Good Lick Charm

COOKBOOK AUTHOR Claire Crespo loves to play with her food. Just check out her "Yummyfun Kooking" series on DVD (\$40, Yummyfun.com), in which she wackily details how to whip up candy bugs and spaghetti with meatball eyes. Guests include a bear and a nutty scientist, signaling that the how-tos are aimed at Emerils under 8. Still, hipster house band the Tastebuds and cool-looking party fare like potato flip-flops make it a fun watch for any foodie.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOE BLOGGER

The end of the summer is approaching, and I've been invited by my family to spend a long weekend at the shore. What can you recommend that would be suitably casual, but still stylish, and could make my legs look good in short shorts? — DIANE

■ Manolo says, as is his customary summer habit, the Manolo has spent the past few weeks in Malibu, enjoying the beach, the marvelous weather, and the lifestyles of the rich and Botoxed.



While he has been here, the Manolo and his crew, the Posse Manolo, have been rolling down Robertson, Melrose and in the Grove, the super-fantastic shopping areas of Los Angeles and Beverly Hills.

While doing this, the Manolo has noticed several hot trends among the young and hip: tight-tight straight-leg pants, or their opposite, wide-legged jeans, suit vests, lightweight scarves, the color gunmetal gray, and the return of that old WASPy staple, the Sperry Top-Sider. In short, the dominant trend among the youthful of Los Angeles is hipster prep, the look the Manolo finds quite amusing.

In honor of these trends, here is the wedge-heeled, "Authentic Original" Sperry Top-Sider (\$104, Zappos.com) in the gold metallic color that would look great with the tan legs.

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

Mintyce wears a Shoshanna dress (\$340, Lord and Taylor). Model T.H.E. Artist Agency. Hair and makeup by Kim Steel, T.H.E. Artist Agency. Photo by Marge Ely.

Styles | fashion



For Your Eyelet Only

Embroidered cotton shot full of holes was once the stuff of little Sally's pinafores and granny's bloomers. But eyelet has gone glam, colorful and grown-up, flirting on tops, bright dresses and even shoes. "Femininity has been on the radar for a number of seasons" says Lizzy Sall, co-creator of party-chick clothier Dakota Martin. "Eyelet is the pinnacle of girly-girl." Plus, eyelet not only appears cool, but it also feels cool, thanks to its natural ventilation. Because there's nothing prettier than not looking sweaty.

ASHLEY JOY PARKER

(1) **Shoshanna's** swinging '60s style shift in robin's egg blue grooves for a picnic or casual summer wedding. (\$320, Nordstrom, Montgomery Mall, 7111 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda; 301-365-4111)

(2) **Tan legs** (or brown leggings) set off Shoshanna's bright white minidress. Chunky, tribal-looking jewelry keeps it from looking overly sweet and innocent. (\$330, Nordstrom)

(3) **Go playfully** tomboy by wearing Converse's iconic, funky kicks with a linen sundress. The pink and chocolate brown color combo smacks of retro, 1970s style. (\$52, Zappos.com)

(4) **A bright** printed tunic or sarong — think hot pink or electric purple — would add flash to this simple-yet-chic weensy bikini with an equally teeny price tag. (\$20, H&M, 1025 F St. NW; 202-347-3306)

fashion | Styles



(5) Just a touch of lacy trim edges Lauren Merkin's linen clutch. The cobalt blue hue means it would really pop if you carried it while wearing a simple white sundress. (\$250, Neimanmarcus.com)

(6) An unexpected color (shocking pink) and fabric help Jones New York's breezy skirt suit feel anything but boardroom boring. Its BFF? A black tee. (\$100, Macy's, 1201 G St. NW; 202-347-3969)

(7) A super-soft cotton T-shirt sports an eyelet yoke. For a cool-yet-casual weekend look, wear it with a pair of skinny shorts or pants in gray or tan. Result? Breezy, easy style. (\$36.50, Roxy.com)

(8) Lingerie-inspired (yet wearable outside the boudoir), Dakota Martin's ladylike silk top evokes retro screen sirens. Ruffles add a princessy touch on their own or under a cardigan. (\$195, Dakotamartin.com)

(9) Chilly nights at Dewey Beach (or on a blanket at Merriweather Post Pavilion) cry out for a lightweight, crisp cover-up like Roxy Quicksilver's buttermilk yellow jacket. (\$54, Roxy.com)

(10) Vaguely folksy in mood, Roxy Quicksilver's boho skirt works with a peasant top or halter. Keep the latter-day Woodstock vibe by pairing it with leather flats and a cross-body bag. (\$39.50, Roxy.com)

(11) Channel one of those chic housewives on "Mad Men"—without the annoying sexism or 1960s hairdos—in a simple white eyelet skirt with a peekaboo of yellow underneath. (\$44.50, Macy's)



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Styles | home

Home Off the Rack

Louboutin and other fashion powers deck their own halls

A sofa covered in Sgt. Pepper silk stripes. A table made of a dramatic fallen log. Ottomans that seem to be upholstered in Astroturf. When clothing designers such as Dolce & Gabbana, Betsey Johnson and Vanessa Bruno turn from the runway to their own homes, the decor tends to be as eclectic and colorful as Paris Fashion Week. In her new book, "Dressing the Home: The Private Spaces of Top Fashion Designers" (\$45, Abrams), Marie Bariller spotlights the abodes of some of the style world's biggest names. We asked her for some inside scoop. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

QA

These are such fab interiors. How'd you decide who to include?



I was curious to see if clothing designers that I loved had the same inspirations for their homes as for their fashions. It turned out they really all showed very different personalities. You look at Betsey Johnson's apartment and Junko Shimada's home, and they're very different.

Did these designers decorate their own homes?

Yes, most of them did the spaces themselves. I think because they create clothing, they already know which shades are nicest together and how to mix colors.

Do their color choices at home echo those in their collections?

Some of them told me they couldn't



FEMININE WILD: Fashion designer Betsey Johnson glammed up her New York apartment with lots of pink upholstery, girly mirrors and leopard-print curtains.

live without certain colors or fabrics. Others wanted to come home to a place that is more soft and neutral.

Where do you think they find decorating inspiration?

I think some of them go to the same places they get clothing inspiration from. For instance, Betsey Johnson's place is very feminine, like her dresses. But these are people who travel a lot, all over the world, so I think they are influenced by lots of things. They always have their eyes wide open. Loulou de la Falaise told me she was influenced by a little stone she saw on the ground!

You went behind closed doors with style forces from Diane von Furstenberg to Catherine Malandrino. Whose pad did you like best?

Rick Owens has a special place in a very old area in Paris. It's amazing because it's in a really nice 18th-century building with moldings and huge windows. In some

ways, it's classical, but in other places, he broke everything and left concrete and wires exposed. I like the duality.

Who had objects or furniture that you covet?

Diane von Furstenberg had beautiful art-deco furniture. And I liked that Christian Louboutin was very influenced by Egypt. He has these extraordinary, very simple chairs.

Did you get the impression that fashion designers change their interiors as often as they change their clothes?

Designers are attached to furniture and objects — they're collectors. At home, it's more that they mix things. They add a new color, or they take away a piece of furniture.

What design ideas did you take away from this project?

Anyone who is a designer wants to feel well about life. They create clothes so people will wear them and they'll be a perfect fit. It's the same thing with a house.

B.I.O.

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Andrea Glover, Coleridge Collymore

Andrea, 31, is an audit manager. Coleridge, 31, works in international development. They will live in Springfield.

■ **The Main Event:** A destination wedding in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on Aug. 9.
 ■ **How They Met:** At a Christmas tree-trimming party of a mutual friend.
 ■ **First Impressions:** "She was unique and adorable as she drank her bottle of spring water." "He was cute, clever and comical as he poked fun at me for drinking bottled water at a party."
 ■ **First Date:** A trip to the movies.

"I knew I wanted to marry her during a trip to New York."

Bobby Chang, Jamie Tang

Bobby, 26, is a business analyst. Jamie, 27, is a research service coordinator. They live in Rockville.

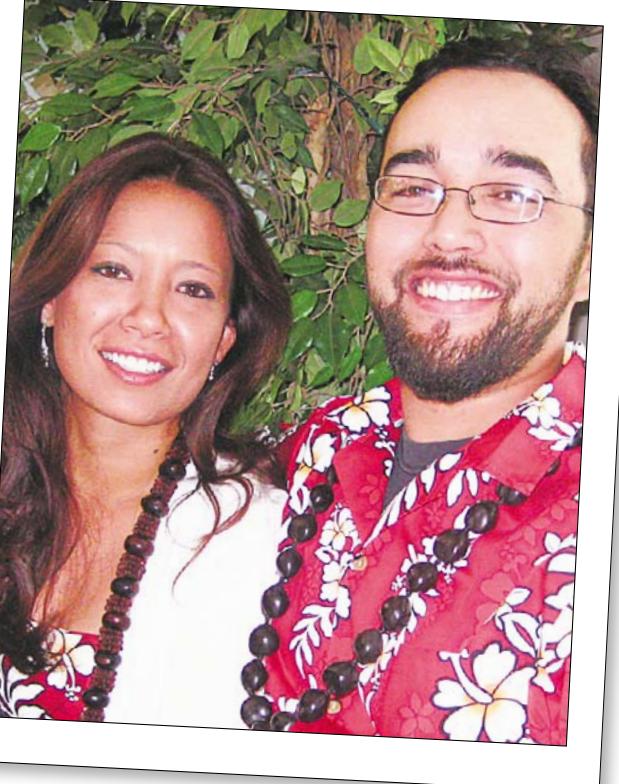
■ **The Main Event:** A formal ceremony and reception on a yacht sailing in Baltimore's Inner Harbor on Aug. 8.
 ■ **How They Met:** Through mutual pals while at the University of Maryland.
 ■ **First Impressions:** "Oh, it's that guy's friend again." "She looks mean. She must hate me."

■ **First Date:** Dinner at Tara Thai followed by "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." "I fell asleep about a quarter of the way into the movie," says Jamie. "Luckily, I didn't drool."
 ■ **How He Proposed:** The plan was to surprise Jamie with a Vegas trip. But when Jamie's grandma fell ill, Bobby opted for popping the question as he picked Jamie up for dinner after she had returned from a hospital visit.



"A stuffed hippo waited in the passenger seat with the ring tied to its ear."

■ **Their Song:** "This I Promise You" by 'NSync.



John Conger, Kristine Minami

John, 39, is a legislative director. Kristine, 40, is an attorney. They live in Silver Spring.

■ **The Main Event:** A wedding in D.C. on Aug. 8, followed by a garden party reception in Germantown two days later.

■ **How They Met:** In a science, technology and international affairs class while attending grad school at George Washington University.

■ **First Impressions:** "I went to sit by the prettiest girl in the room." "He tried to chat me up. I do remember him."

■ **First Date:** The two had been friends for a while before John worked up the nerve to ask her out ... and she said no. Kristine later moved away from the D.C. area, but when she came back a few years

Shake, Shimmy for Love

When **WILLIAM RANNELS** attended his grandfather's Alexandria hula dancing school in 1999, he couldn't help noticing a cutie swaying across the way. "I like to think I hula-danced my way into his heart," jokes **YVONNE GABONIA**. The pair became fast friends, but it was during a hula competition in Vegas a few months later that their relationship became amorous. "I knew then that my feelings weren't going to be staying in Vegas," says William.

On a trip to Maui in July 2006, he made it official. While snorkeling at the Molokini Marine Sanctuary, William passed Yvonne a seashell ... which "I nearly tossed back in the water," she confesses. "I thought he took it illegally." Whew: Upon turning it over, she found a ring. They'll wed Aug. 8 in Oahu, surrounded by family, friends and hula school members. "It's funny because we're going to Hawaii," says Yvonne. "But we're also bringing Hawaii with us: hula dancers, musicians and all!"

Yvonne, 28, is a federal government employee. William, 30, is a facilities management technician. They live in Lorton.

"The writing was on the wall after we got a dog and bought a house together."

later, John gave it one more go. This time Kristine said yes.

■ **How He Proposed:** While dining out in Quebec, John reached into his pocket. "I told him, 'Not here, not now,'" recalls Kristine. "I didn't want him to propose in a such a public place. Later that night, back in our hotel room, he asked. But this time, he forgot to pull out the ring."

■ **Making It Unique:** Since they will wed on 08/08/2008 — "eight turned on its side is infinity" explains Kristine — they plan on getting tattoos of the infinity symbol following the big day.



Getting Married? If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.



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Lofty Ambitions

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Dedicated hunters turn up vintage treasures at a local antiques fair | **E10**



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Space for High Style

Loft condo units provide plenty of room but present decor challenges

Once upon a time in the 1960s, artists in New York City discovered that warehouses, factories and other old abandoned buildings made an economical housing choice. In these former digs of the Industrial Revolution, creative types could combine work studios with living space. Although these urban pioneers may have had to forgo separate kitchens and nice bathrooms, the cheap rent and sheer amount of open space were compensation.

Fast-forward 50 years to today, when living in lofts has become a hip prospect for urban professionals. Unlike New York and other cities, though, the D.C. area offers little, if any, industrial stock — old paint factories, defunct ketchup-bottling plants, shipping warehouses — that can be converted into such spaces.

But that hasn't deterred developers, who in the past five or six years have turned old schools and churches into condos. New loft buildings have also sprung up faster than you can say "urban hipster." These cityified spaces, though, present new challenges for owners and interior designers not accustomed to open, undefined space, 10-foot-high ceilings and expansive windows.

Norman Smith of D.C.-based Norman Smith Architecture designed one of the first buildings with such a vibe in D.C.: Lofts at Meridian Hill, built between 2001 and 2002. Why the increasing interest in lofts? Smith says it's "a confluence of factors — a client base of young professionals as well as some empty nesters, an increasing acceptance of modernism, and the romantic notion of an artist's loft — that made returning to the city and living in it a desirable thing to do," says Smith. He is currently at work on a project in the increasingly hot H Street neighborhood and sees Anacostia as the next most likely frontier for development.



Jennifer Landgraff furnished her Logan Circle loft with locally purchased pieces like this modern lounge chair from Muleh.

developers saw a need to go beyond traditional-style apartment layouts. Another impetus: Many historic downtown neighborhoods were undergoing revitalization.

"It was appealing to create new spaces with elements of raw design like exposed brick and poured concrete floors," says Felix. "We could marry the romance of the lifestyle of starving artist with the convenience of a Sub-Zero."

“We could marry the romance of the lifestyle of starving artist with the convenience of a Sub-Zero.”

CAROL FELIX
MARKETING CONSULTANT

Jennifer Landgraff, 32, a mortgage lender for First Financial Services, moved to her 1,000-square-foot, one-bedroom, 11-foot-high-ceiling condo in the Lofts 14-1 in Logan Circle in 2005.

"The space seems bigger because of the windows," says Landgraff. (She actually pays someone to clean them for her since they're so hard to reach.) While her unit was under construction, Landgraff collected a few pieces to furnish her new place: a dining room table, sofa and chair from modern furnishings store Ligne Roset (3306 M St. NW; 202-333-6390). When she moved in, she sought design advice from Muleh, a contemporary cool home furnishings boutique (1831 14th St. NW, 202-667-3440), and owner Christopher Reiter.

"D.C. doesn't have massive lofts, so you need to be space-conscious when selecting furniture," Reiter says. As an example, Reiter points to Kenneth Cobonpue's new Noodle Glass Table (\$960, Muleh). "It seems smaller than it is, yet it provides both a surface for dining and/or work with art underneath. It's a functional piece of sculpture."

To warm up her space, Reiter advised Landgraff to accessorize with organic materials like a stool made of cork and other accents in bamboo. She recently purchased Kenneth Cobonpue's Dragnet lounge chair (\$3,420, Muleh), an egg-shaped mix of upholstery, knotted mesh and stainless steel.

"Loft living can be a challenge for

DC Lofts (DCLofts.com), a real estate Web site, claims that there are more than 160 loft-style residences in the District, Maryland and Virginia. But not everything listed as "loft" or "loft-style" is the real McCoy in Smith's opinion. Smith's definition? A modern,

open space with no pronounced barrier between public and private areas, which features exposed duct work and exposed surfaces (brick, concrete), employs alternative materials (cork, steel) and has ceilings that are more than eight feet tall.

Most of all, though, says Smith, "a loft is a space with an attitude."

Carol Felix, a marketing consultant to Metropolis Development, whose locus of buildings is Logan Circle, says that the idea of newly constructed lofts took off five or six years ago when

people not used to floor-to-ceiling windows," says Reiter, "but bold drapes and a collage of lighting can help offset industrial coldness. You don't want to feel as if you're living in a warehouse at night." Reiter likes to hang pairs or trios of lights together at varying heights to create a spiral effect. "They lead the eye up and give you an appreciation for the volume of the space," he says.

Huge white walls require oversize art or something sculptural, according to Reiter. Lucky for her, Landgraff's friend, artist Jamie Wimberly, gave her several paintings to hang on her walls.

Still, blank space still loomed. Original art can be prohibitively expensive, but Landgraff found "a cool, cheap way" to fill the expanse. She bought a small projection unit (\$300-\$400) from Home Rule (1807 14th St. NW; 202-797-5544) that beams a large clock onto the wall next to her dining-room table. The projector sits on top of the refrigerator and is wired to the back of the fridge to

MULEH



Decorating a loft can be harder than furnishing a regular apartment. Christopher Reiter recommends dramatic-yet-functional pieces like Kenneth Cobonpue's chaise.

avoid unsightly hanging cords. Landgraff says everyone who comes to visit is fascinated by her unusual timekeeper.

Landgraff filled her loft with locally purchased finds because she believes in supporting her neighborhood retailers: "I've bought

into the lifestyle — the restaurants, the furniture stores, the nearby Whole Foods grocery store — even my office is just blocks away."

Sarah Crispi, 34, a lawyer, and her furniture-designer husband, Ryan, moved to the Orlovon condos on Champlain Street in Adams

Morgan five years ago. They left a 750-square-foot apartment in Bethesda for the two-level, 1,250-square-foot loft with 10-foot-high ceilings.

"We were interested in the neighborhood and wanted a contemporary space," says Sarah.

“You don't want to feel as if you're living in a warehouse at night."

CHRISTOPHER REITER
OWNER OF MULEH

They bought furniture for their upstairs living, kitchen and dining areas from Contemporaria (3303 Cad's Alley NW; 202-338-0193), which specializes in high-end Italian design. Owner Deborah Kalkstein advised them on layout and color

CONTINUED ON E4

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Jennifer Landgraff adds intrigue to her loft by projecting a large clock onto a wall.

High Style

CONTINUED FROM E3

schemes for the spaces.

Their low-slung Capellini couch (their particular model has been discontinued, but a similar one sells for \$12,287, Contemporaria) offers a ledge for placing drinks and snacks. "It's perfect for entertaining and gives us the most flexibility for moving around the area," says Crispi.

They also purchased a round Minotti ottoman (\$2,094, Contemporaria) on which they can rest trays, and two square upholstered stools that can also do double duty as tables. Kalkstein suggested they keep the palette neutral, using orange as an accent color on a lamp and coffee table.

Interior designer Cristina DePina of Fairfax says homeowners can meet the challenge of a large, open space by using furniture to create several functioning areas. "Bookcases or screens also work as dividers," says DePina.

"Be creative with artwork; look for long, rectangular pieces or contemporary sculpture to fill the space," DePina suggests. warm

Huge white walls require oversize art or something sculptural to fill them.

grays and taupes for walls; if you use the same color on the ceiling, it brings the soaring height down to size. "Don't go too large with a sofa; instead, opt for modular furniture that you can reconfigure. Room & Board (Roomandboard.com) is a great source," says DePina.

For lighting, she recommends hanging a dramatic chandelier over a dining room table or a series of drum-shaped pendant lights, which can often be scored on the cheap. "I've seen them at Ikea," says DePina.

Regardless of "what your wallet can support" to decorate them, lofts will always carry a hip vibe, Reiter of Muleh says. "There's that bohemian cachet to lofts," he says. "They've always been cool."

JANET BENNETT KELLY

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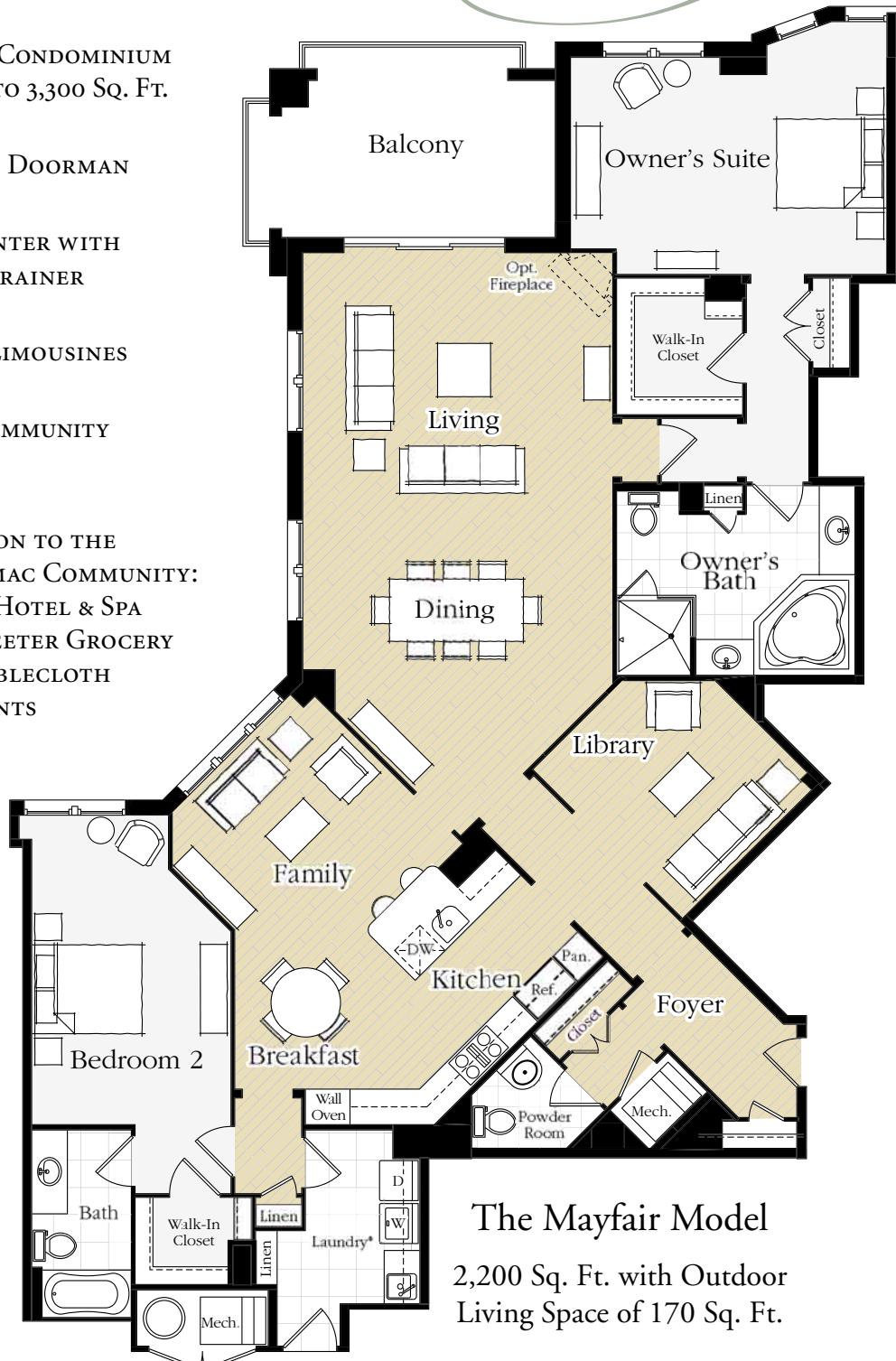


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VIEW FINDER: Kevin Gray, a sales associate for the Logan Station condos on R Street NW, stands next to a flat-panel TV — a fixture that comes standard in the units.

people are selling their high-end entertainment pieces as part of their condo units rather than dismantling the setup and potentially leaving gaping holes where the next resident will likely want to secure his or her own television mounts.

66 If they put in a TV, they probably dotted their I's and crossed their T's."

KEVIN GRAY, LOGAN STATION SALES ASSOCIATE

"A lot of people are going to leave a TV and just opt for upgrading when they move," says Steve Gerber, vice president of production for Bogdan Builders, which also developed Belmont Vista (Belmontvistacondo.com) near Adams Morgan. All of the 28 condo units at Belmont Vista come with flat panels installed either above the fireplace or in the living room.

"It's gonna have to be bolted to the wall, it's gonna make marks, it's gonna have to be weighted," says Gray. "You can set a giant television on a table, but it will dwarf the furniture."

Bogdan Builders typically hangs the high-definition screens above fireplaces, which means it also incorporates a design feature into the mantel to protect the plasma television from heat.

"Subconsciously, the buyer thinks: 'If the builder's attention to detail includes that, they've probably

Buyers' Big Turn-On

As televisions grow in size and stature, sellers promote the screens as assets

In a condo market in which hardwood floors, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances come standard, sellers need something dramatic — yet practical — to make their properties stand out.

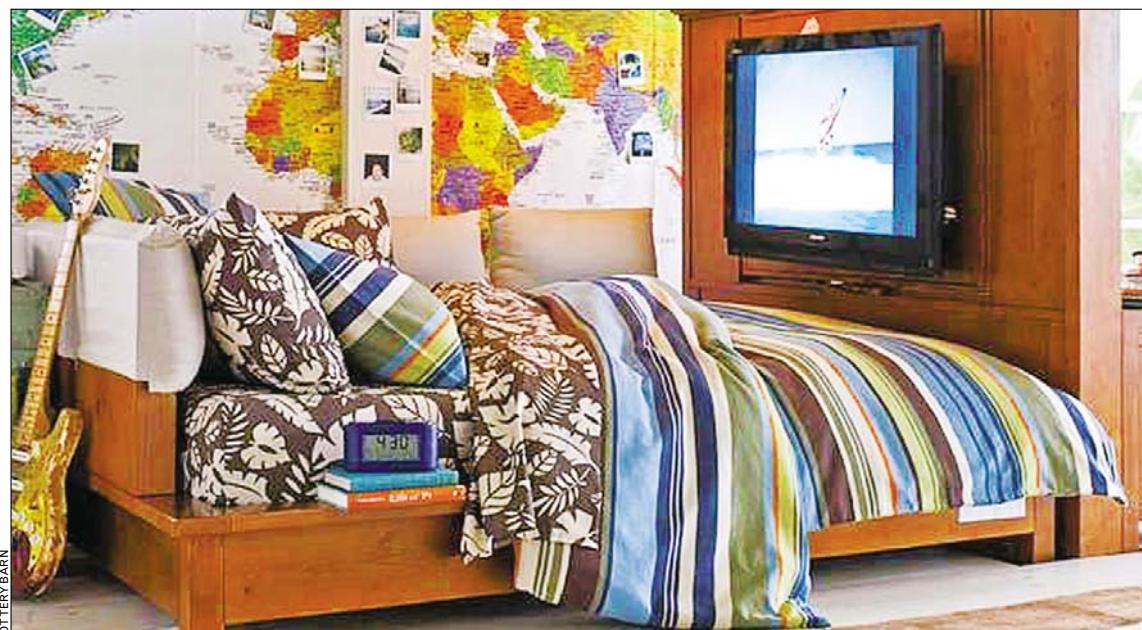
Welcome to the age of the flat-panel fixture, when 42-inch plasma televisions are included in the price of property.

High-definition televisions typically retail for about \$2,000, which is "a big chunk of change," or a month's mortgage, says Kevin Gray, a sales associate at Logan Station

(Loganstationcondos.com). The Bogdan Builders property, located on R Street in Logan Circle, has 62 units that come standard with 42-inch flat-panel televisions. "By offering a TV, it's one less decision the purchaser has to make."

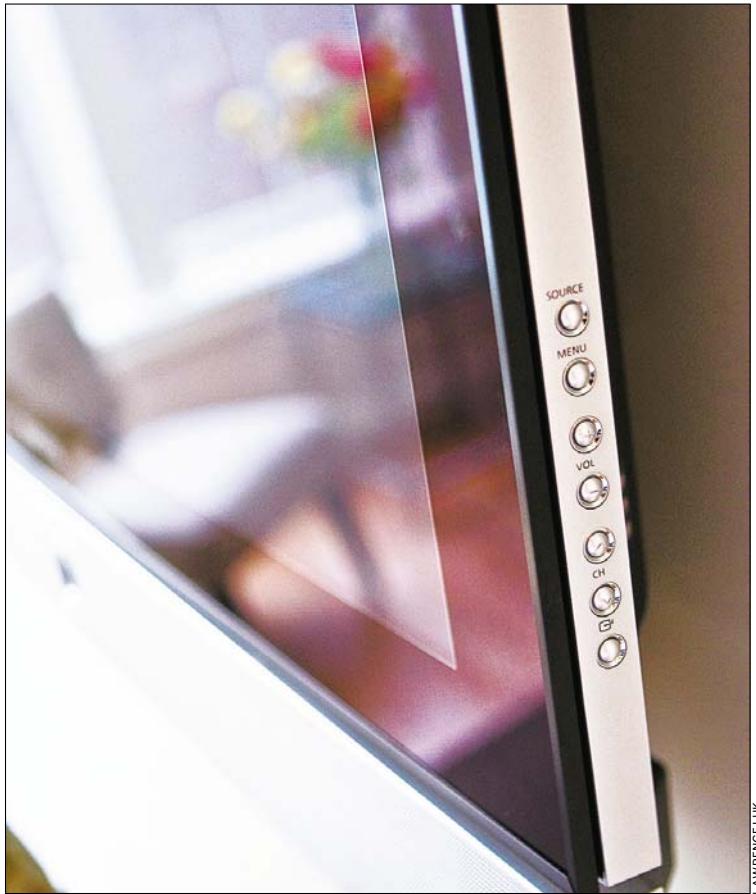
Suddenly, TVs have become selling points and showpieces. It's as if condo owners, who miss out on the bragging rights a manicured lawn can bring, invest in a game of "pimp my entertainment center," tripping out their TV sets with toys from a burgeoning decor market.

Not only do these flat-panel televisions give sellers an edge — and a trademark — in a competitive market, but they also make things easier for buyers. The skinny, often gigantic sets can be costly to mount and destructive to walls. So,



TUBE STATION: Pottery Barn Teen's solid wood platform bed and footboard incorporates a 37-inch TV into the bedroom.

CondoLiving



LAWRENCE LUK

Developers are hoping that high-end entertainment pieces will help sell condos.

taken care of other details like electrical wiring and soundproof walls," Gray says.

"There's a little bit of a mind play," he says. "If they put in a TV, they probably dotted their I's and crossed their T's."

It used to rank among the worst sins of interior design: planting a TV in the middle of a room.

Condos with flashy TVs may spare buyers extra expenses and hassle, but they're also creating new decor necessities. A cottage industry has sprung up around the movement to replace family portraits with futuristic televisions as living room focal points.

Plasma Window (\$14.95-\$22.95; Plasmawindow.com) introduced DVDs that loop like computer screen savers for the TV. Options for those who abhor a blank screen: Virtual aquariums, a crackling fire or a modern art painting, are

broadcast in high definition.

"I bought a plasma TV, installed it and realized there was a lack of any artwork. It was like an empty picture frame on the wall," says Plasma Window creator Chris Gordon, a producer for ABC television in Los Angeles. "My first idea was for an art DVD, where different works would play every few minutes. We started adding images for relaxation, like ocean and waterfall scenes."

Gordon, who started the company four years ago, is currently shooting a virtual window series around the globe. He's using high-definition video to capture the view from a Paris window of people and their shadows passing the Arc de Triomphe. The "Cityscapes" DVD also will include panoramas from windows in London, St. Petersburg, Rio de Janeiro and other cities across South America and Asia.

"If you have an apartment in Washington and you don't have a view, turn your 50-inch television into a window," he says. "It's different than a 20-inch tube TV; you'd hide that in an armoire or in the corner."

"But you wouldn't hang an empty picture frame on the wall," he says.

It used to rank among the

CONTINUED ON E8

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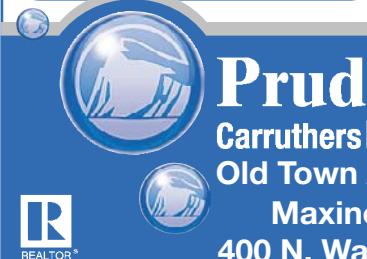
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Big Turn-On

CONTINUED FROM E7

worst sins of interior design — planting a television in the middle of a room — but today's sleeker models look almost like modern art themselves."

In its summer catalog, Pottery Barn Teen introduced the flat panel-friendly Stuff-Your-Stuff Platform Bed & Plasma Footboard, which makes no apologies about its television idolatry, either.

"The television has gone from an eyesore to a showpiece," says Sarah Plamondon, a spokeswoman for PBteen. "Now it's a focal point."

The footboard, which costs \$599 for a full-size bed and \$699 for a queen (the platform bed itself goes for another \$1,099 for the full and \$1,199 for the queen), lends itself to tight studio spaces. It holds a 37-inch flat-panel TV, conceals the cords and swivels for different viewing positions throughout the room. It can even double as a tool for type-A personalities: The back side has a cork board for notes and a calendar.

"Everything has a function; everything has a purpose," Plamondon says.

Plamondon said Pottery Barn surveyed teens to get a feel for what they wanted to add to their rooms. The No. 1 request? Incorporate the TV.

"Rooms are everything to teens. It's the one space in the house that is all theirs," Plamondon says. "Parents are letting teens have more creativity and input in their rooms. It's where they study, sleep and have friends over."

Pottery Barn expects to incorporate more technology into future collections, such as a proposed nightstand that doubles as an iPod or cell phone charging station, Plamondon says.

In the meantime, it seems the larger television screens become, the more likely the fixtures are to be left behind with the front-loading washing machines and top-mount freezers — the home amenities that can make or break a sale — when someone moves.

"People by no means search for new condos that include a plasma TV; it's an added perk," says Gray, at Logan Station. "You rarely find people who say, 'I wouldn't want that TV' or 'I wouldn't want HD.'"

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TREASURES OR TRASH? Red Barn Mercantile's Amy Rutherford examines items at the Luckett's Spring Antique Market. A day of scavenging can turn up serious bargains — or a new pile of junk for the closet.

Masters of the Market

Antiques dealers have a knack for scoring treasures at fleas and fairs

Amy Rutherford owns Red Barn Mercantile, a home furnishings and accessories store in Old Town Alexandria stocked with new merchandise and antiques she finds, restores and repurposes. The style is sophisticated and family-friendly.

"Our antiques are not precious," Rutherford says. "They're usable."

She finds many of these pieces by scouting small shops, attending auctions and traveling to flea market. Typically joining her on these excursions is her mother, Barbara Esmond. A second-generation antiquer, Esmond refinished furniture for her mother's antiques store in Tulsa while in high school. Today, she refurbishes pieces for her daughter's store.

Rutherford recently invited me to join her and her mom on a day trip to the Luckett's Spring Antique Market, an annual weekend flea in Loudoun County with more than 100 vendors. As someone who

“If you can buy it old for as much as, or less than, something new, then you have made a great investment.”

AMY RUTHERFORD, OWNER OF RED BARN MERCANTILE

frequents flea markets, I accepted immediately and looked forward to tagging along and watching the experts in action.

Before the end of the year, at least a half-dozen flea markets will be held across the region. But these are not ordinary shopping experiences. To get the most out of these markets, having antiques-spotting skills and knowing how to haggle are key. And the best way to learn is by example: watching the pros use their trained eyes to seek out pieces with potential and bargain their way to the best deals.

When the gates at Luckett's opened at 10 on that cool morning, mother and daughter wasted no time. They found their first piece within minutes, a weathered and

wobbly warehouse dolly. Esmond will eventually clean, restore and refinish it, and Rutherford will sell it as a coffee table. After a quick consult and some haggling with the dealer, the dolly was slapped with a bright orange sticker: SOLD.

One of the keys to successful flea marketing, Rutherford says, is being able to look beyond an item's original use. A chest of drawers, for example, could make a comely buffet in a small space. A stone trough could be used for plants or, turned upside down, as extra seating. An antique wooden ironing board would do well placed behind a couch as a console table or, as Rutherford herself uses one, as a bedside table.

Other things to consider: how much an item will cost and how much work it needs. "Be realistic about how much time or money

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Barbara Esmond examines the structural integrity of an antique wooden chair.

you're willing to put into the project," Rutherford says. "It's not a bargain if it just sits in the garage and never gets used."

To get the most out of local flea markets, knowing how to haggle is key.

The next piece Rutherford spotted was a plain wood podium, which she envisioned as a stylish side table. But after a closer look, she determined the restoration would require too much time and be too costly, so she decided to pass. Esmond disagreed. Moments later, the piece was theirs for \$50. "Mom's the one doing the work," Rutherford says, "so she has the final veto power." (All told, Rutherford said later, the podium had to be stripped, sanded, painted and distressed, and the bottom was replaced.)

Rutherford says her favorite finds are utilitarian, such as a

1930s worktable she discovered at a previous Luckett's market. "It's unique; it has history and character," she says. "My philosophy is if you can buy it old for as much as, or less than, something new, then you have made a great investment. There's a misconception that antiques are fragile, but if they've lasted 80 to 100 years, then you know they're good, sturdy pieces."

Rutherford was visibly excited about her next find: an industrial-size wire basket on a stand with wheels. Price: \$60. With a simple canvas liner inside, she said, it would be perfect as a hamper in a laundry room, for toy storage in a child's room or placed in a guest room to hold pillows, linens and towels. We chatted about other possibilities while she waited patiently for the vendor's attention.

But that proved to be a mistake.

When the vendor finally turned to Rutherford, it was too late. The basket had been sold just moments before. Clearly disappointed, Rutherford chalked it up to the unspoken rules of the game. "All's fair in flea markets," she says.

CONTINUED ON E12



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Market Masters

CONTINUED FROM E11

"I wasn't assertive enough. Lesson learned."

With the sting of the wire basket loss still fresh, Rutherford set her sights on the next vendor and homed in on something even better: a rustic wooden bread cart on wheels for \$65. It was fantastic, and I was momentarily furious I hadn't spotted it first. The find was so fabulous, in fact, that the letdown of the wire basket mishap was instantly forgotten.

According to Rutherford, the possibilities for this piece are endless: a bin for recycling ("It's important that we do it, so why not do it in style?"), a place to store magazines and catalogs, a laundry hamper, a toy chest or an all-purpose catchall in any room. "But," she says, "I'd love to see this in a really modern space. Or in a stark white bathroom holding towels."

Her instant attraction and



Amy Rutherford inspects antique lamps at the Luckett's Spring Antique Market.

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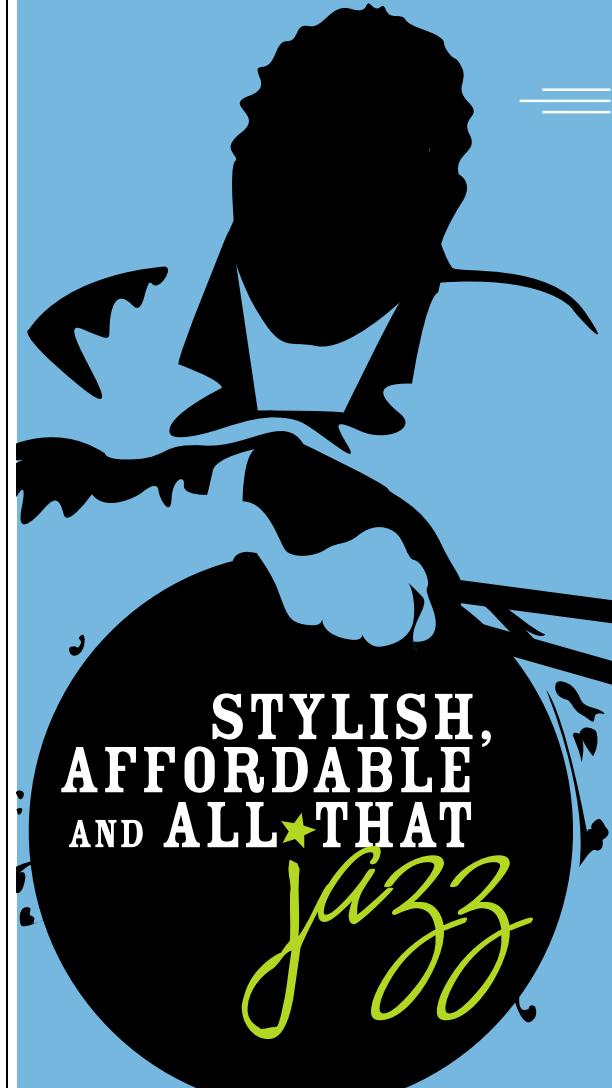
"Be realistic" about which antique items you really will refurbish, Rutherford says.

obvious affection for the bread cart made me wonder: How can she bring home so many great pieces and not keep any for herself?

Two months after our outing, I visit Rutherford's shop. Some of the antiques from Luckett's are still in a queue waiting to be refinished, but others have made their way to the floor, scattered among newly made neighbors. Shapely milk bottles and their wire holder sit atop a late-1800s pine buffet. Old glass

Barbasol jars with black screw-top lids are in the window display next to an upholstered nursery glider and a dog bowl filled with biscuits. I continue to browse but don't see the bread cart. "I just want to see it. I don't want to buy it," I keep saying to myself.

When I inquire about the cart, Rutherford tells me it's in her office. Then she adds, "I just might have to keep that one." **TERRI SAPIENZA**
(THE WASHINGTON POST)



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future needs.

Besides all that, Tinius pointed out that the community pool, barbecue areas and an elegant ballroom at the community center all add to the relaxing lifestyle.

From the outside, the buildings at McLean Gardens look like a typical garden apartment development, but inside it's a different story. The 720 units range from 506 to 1,695 square feet and have wildly varied floor plans; there are 27 in all. Some are traditional townhouse-style duplexes while others are chic studios with soaring loft spaces and skylights. Some have eat-in kitchens and walk-in closets, a few have spiral staircases, and all are equipped with washers and dryers and central air conditioning.

What is now McLean Gardens was part of a 3,000-acre tract granted to Col. Thomas Addison and James Stoddert in 1695. Over the next two centuries, that land was subdivided and either passed down through families or sold off to investors.

In 1898, wealthy businessman and newspaper publisher John R. McLean bought 75 acres of the land on which to build his summer home. McLean, then the owner of The Washington Post and the Cincinnati Enquirer, had numerous other local properties: McLean in Fairfax County was a stop on his streetcar line that ran from downtown Washington to the Virginia suburbs in the early 20th century.

His lavish home had tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course and ornate gardens. It became a meeting place for the elite during the early 1900s, and among the regular visitors were presidents Harding and Coolidge.

Eventually, McLean's grand summer home was demolished, and in 1942 the federal government built inexpensive housing to accommodate the flood of government workers coming into Washington as part of the war effort, surrounding the simple brick buildings with ample green spaces to suggest the look and feel of the suburbs.

After World War II, the buildings were offered to the general population as rental units.

More than 700 tenants lived there until the 1970s, when plans to tear down the complex gave rise

CONTINUED ON E16

Community Growth

Nature and new friendships thrive at a Tenleytown condo complex

Situated on 32 carefully landscaped acres just off Wisconsin Avenue NW in busy Tenleytown, the McLean Gardens condominium complex is lovely all year, but certain seasons highlight its best qualities.

On hot summer days, the cherry and dogwood trees that wash the neighborhood with color in the spring offer a sweeping canopy of welcome shade over the broad green lawns. Benches, an ornate fountain and several statues enliven the manicured streets, contrasting with the woodsy trails of Glover-

Archbold Park that border the neighborhood.

As its name implies, the community encourages gardens; homeowners apply for individual garden plots — no vegetables, please — around their buildings. As a result, the areas around the entryways are personalized and alive.

If there are no takers, the condo association provides landscaping for the entry area. "Nice little touches like that make it beautiful," said Joan Furlong, an enthusiastic resident since 1993.

An entrepreneur and professional gardener, Furlong owns a business that specializes in invasive plant removal; naturally, her own garden is particularly attractive. "We get kudos from the neighbors for making our courtyard so special," she said.

“This is the place where we have interacted with people the most.”

JOE MCGINNIS JR.,
MCLEAN GARDENS RESIDENT

Furlong moved to McLean Gardens from Dupont Circle after hearing from friends that it was a great environment for single women — in the middle of an urban area, yet safe. "When I saw the unit, across from the community garden with a view of the cathedral, I was sold right away," she said.

After she married in 2002, Furlong and her husband, Stephen

Tinius, moved to a larger unit. "We have always found life here to be so comfortable," she said. "There is a real sense of security."

Their courtyard is tucked away at the back of the community, fostering kinship with their neighbors. "Ten or 12 of us watched 'The Sopranos' together every Sunday night over potluck dinners."

As the treasurer of the McLean Gardens Condominium Association, Tinius is involved with the disbursement of a \$4 million operating budget from condo fees. The money covers the costs of a professional management team; the landscaping, snow removal and trash collection; custodial services in common halls; recreational facilities; a monthly newsletter; and healthy reserves set aside for

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Garden Haven

CONTINUED FROM E15

to the McLean Gardens Residents Association. After a fierce battle that helped create new laws on city rent control and condominium conversion, the tenants purchased the complex in 1979. By 1982, McLean Gardens had been fully converted into condos.

"There are some rentals in McLean Gardens — maybe 20 percent — but they are all privately owned condominiums that are rented out by individual owners," said Barbara Bermpohl, who, with her husband and a succession of dogs, has lived there for more than 16 years.

“We love the wide range of ages of the people here. ... We often have group dinners.”

BARBARA BERMPOHL,
MCLEAN GARDENS RESIDENT

"From my observation, McLean Gardens offers the best dollar-per-square-foot value of any condominium in the city. And as a real estate agent, I know that buyers can get any kind of financing ... to purchase a home here; that's not the case with many other condos in the city," she said.

After a career move took the Bermpohls "way out in the country," they eagerly moved back to the District after just two years. "We're urban people; we felt exiled in Chantilly," Bermpohl said. "And we love green space, but we didn't want to do all the work. This fit our needs perfectly."

The only sticking point was finding a floor plan that would accommodate their large dining room set. Once they did — their spacious two-story unit holds all their treasures, including a sizable art collection amassed on annual trips to France — everything clicked into place. "We love the wide range of ages of the people here — our neighbors are young families with children, and active retirees. We often have group dinners in our building," she said.

One of those neighbors is writer Joe McGinniss Jr. His first novel,

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MYTH MATCH: A statue increases the classy vibe outside at McLean Gardens.

"The Delivery Man," is a hit and has him following in the footsteps of his father, the author of numerous best-sellers.

McGinniss and his wife, Janine Ford, both in their 30s, arrived in 2004 from Philadelphia and have found the neighborhood to be extremely friendly. "After time spent living in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, this is the place where we have interacted with people the most," McGinniss said.

Ford agreed, adding, "We will definitely be here for awhile. It's not super-cheap to live here, but we've got a good amount of space."

Their year-old son, Julien, and playful yellow Labrador, Vegas, get the whole family outside for informal play dates with other dogs and children.

"Fortunately, there are a lot of dog people here, although we try to be friendly to the non-dog people, too," Ford said jokingly. Condo rules allow residents one dog of any size per unit, or two cats, or a dog and a cat.

"It feels like baby-land, with an informal new mom group and brand-new equipment in the kiddie parks. It's nice to not have to worry about any of that," she said.

Ford also likes her easy walk to work at Fannie Mae on Wisconsin Avenue, which backs up to the community. Several of her co-workers also live in McLean Gardens.

With shops, supermarkets, restaurants and a Starbucks all within walking distance, many residents live quite comfortably without a car. Many who do own cars find street parking sufficient, although some spaces are available for rent in nine private lots sprinkled throughout the community.

There are several nearby health clubs, as well as free tennis courts at Newark Street Park. Buses on Wisconsin and Massachusetts avenues make getting around the city easy; it's about a 15-minute walk to Red Line Metro stations at Tenleytown, Cleveland Park and Van Ness. ANDREA J. ROUDA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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TOUGH SELL: Ann Page has received overly low offers for her McLean house.

Strategic Negotiation

Lowballing home prices is a gamble, but it could help buyers land a deal

In the year and a half that Ann Page has struggled to sell her five-bedroom McLean home, she has received an array of lackluster offers that fell below her original \$2.499 million price tag.

None was as exasperating as when a businessman from Dubai offered \$1 million less than the asking price. "I just thought it was ridiculous," said Page, a commercial real estate agent.

Falling home prices have unleashed bargain hunters offering to pay well below the price listed by sellers. These bidders see a chance to pay a fair price after years of spiraling home values. But sellers might view those offers as insulting if they are convinced of their homes' value.

As a bond investor, Matt Watson, 26, said he found the lowballing strategy naturally appealing when he began searching for a home.

"The way you make money on bonds is by buying it for a low price and making money on the yield. It

is the essence of lowballing — buy low, sell high," Watson said.

The trick to a successful lowball offer may be in the presentation. "The way to phrase it is: 'We really

“You never know how a seller is going to react to an offer until it's in front of them.”

DANIEL ODIO, DRODIO REAL ESTATE

love the house, but we couldn't afford it at that price. This is what we could afford. We know it's way below what you're asking, but would you consider it?" said Carol M. Frohlinger, a negotiation expert based in New York.

Agent Daniel Odio encourages clients to make aggressive offers for several properties in quick succession, looking for a seller who will negotiate. "You never know how a seller is going to react to an offer until it's in front of them," said Odio, founder of DROdio Real Estate in Alexandria. "Listing prices are fictional, especially in this market."

RENAE MERLE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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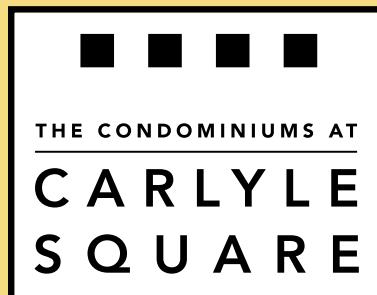


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